

**MOVIES:** Melissa McCarthy goes back to school **Pages 24-25**

**TRAVEL:** Visiting WWI sites in Europe **Page 28**

**MUSIC:** Life is good for Trampled By Turtles **Page 36**

EUROPE  
& PACIFIC  
WEEKEND  
EDITION

**NBA PLAYOFFS**  
Rockets, Warriors set to begin highly anticipated series  
**Back page**



# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Pentagon revises climate change threats in report from Obama era

By CHRIS MOONEY  
AND MISSY RYAN  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Internal changes to a draft Defense Department report de-emphasized the threats climate change poses to military bases and installations, muting or removing references to climate-driven changes in the Arctic and potential risks from rising seas, an unpublished draft obtained by *The Washington Post* reveals.

The earlier version of the document, dated December 2016, contains numerous references to “climate change” that were omitted or altered to “extreme weather” or simply “climate” in the final report, which was submitted to Congress in January 2018. While the phrase “climate change” appears 23 times in the draft report, the final version used it just once.

Those and other edits suggest the Pentagon has adapted its approach to public discussion of climate change under President Donald Trump, who has expressed doubt about the reality of a phenomenon that scientists agree presents an increasing danger to the planet. While military leaders have said they see a changing climate as a driver of instability worldwide, they have also sought to stay out of a politically charged debate about its causes.

SEE CLIMATE ON PAGE 9



PETER SWARZENSKI, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
*The Washington Post*

Waves shore floodwaters over the drive on Roi-Namur Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.



# Wee-hours WELCOME

President rolls out the red carpet for 3 detainees freed by North Korea

■ Trump announces summit with Kim Jong Un next month in Singapore » Page 5

By MATTHEW LEE, JILL COLVIN  
AND ZEKI MILLER  
*Associated Press*

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — In a made-for-TV ceremony in the dead of night, President Donald Trump on Thursday welcomed home three Americans freed by North Korea and declared their release a sign of promise toward his goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

With the former detainees by his side on a dark air base tarmac, Trump called it a “great honor” to welcome the men back to the U.S. but said “the true honor is going to be if we have a victory in getting rid of nuclear weapons.”

But while Trump said North Korea’s Kim Jong

Un “was excellent to these three incredible people,” Vice President Mike Pence hinted in an ABC interview they had endured harsh conditions.

Pence said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told him that at a refueling stop in Anchorage, Alaska, “one of the detainees asked to go outside the plane because he hadn’t seen daylight in a very long time.”

Pence, Pompeo, first lady Melania Trump and other top officials joined Trump in the highly scripted celebration in the wee hours of Thursday morning at Joint Base Andrews near Washington. The men — Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim — had been released Wednesday amid a warming of relations between the longtime adversaries.

SEE WELCOME ON PAGE 5

President Donald Trump walks with former detainees, from left, Tony Kim, Kim Hak Song and Kim Dong Chul upon their arrival early Thursday at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

## MILITARY

## Fighter pilot faces sex assault charges

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

A Colorado-based Air Force fighter pilot is facing court-martial on sexual assault charges for incidents spanning from 2012 to 2014.

Col. Jason Costello, an F-22 Raptor pilot with North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, is charged with raping a sleeping woman while in Rhode Island in 2014, according to Air Force documents.

He's also charged with sexually groping women in several inci-

dents in 2012 and 2014.

The identities of the women have been redacted from the charge sheet provided by the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Costello is also charged with hitting a person in the face in 2013 and "unlawfully" grabbing an individual's arms and wrists in April 2017. The charges were referred on March 29. A trial date is tentatively set for October.

Reports of sexual assault in the military increased in 2017 over the previous year, according to Pentagon data released last month, with reports in the Marine Corps

up by 15 percent, in the Navy and Air Force up by 9 percent and in the Army up by 8 percent.

Meanwhile, fewer servicemembers faced courts-martial for sexual assault in 2017 as commanders more often opted for punishment outside the court system, Pentagon data showed.

Costello remains on active-duty status pending court-martial but has been removed from operational duties, according to an emailed statement from Michael Kucharek, a spokesman for NORAD and U.S. Northern Command.

"As we do in all situations regarding adverse actions against any

employee or servicemember, the command has taken appropriate actions while balancing the rights of the individual," Kucharek said.

Costello has been assigned to the NORAD training and exercise directorate since July 2016 and "is currently working on projects as directed by his chain of command," Kucharek said.

Costello is a 1995 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and attended pilot training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, according to an Air Force article posted online in 2012 when he was a lieutenant colonel in command of the 325th Training Support Squadron



Col. Jason Costello

at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. He also served at Kadana Air Base, Japan; Fort Carson, Colo.; Langley Air Force Base, Va.; and at the Pentagon.

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EVAN THOMPSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Robert Ashman carries the remains of his Navy veteran great-grandfather for an April 23 burial-at-sea ceremony aboard the USS Winston S. Churchill in the Mediterranean Sea.

## Chance puts sailor on ship for kin's sea burial

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

For one family, a burial-at-sea ceremony brought its Navy legacy full circle recently in the Mediterranean.

Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Robert Ashman spotted a familiar name last month when scrolling through a list of those to be buried at sea from his ship, the destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill.

"I saw the name 'James Mitchell,' and I thought it was a coincidence," he said, according to a Navy statement. "Then I saw his name was the same as my great-grandfather — chief signalman — and shortly after my dad messaged me and confirmed they were really his ashes."

Ashman joined the Navy in February 2015, following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather. When he

deployed with the Churchill last month, he had not been told that his great-grandfather's remains would be aboard.

"The Navy became a tradition in my family when my father joined and became a third-generation Sailor," he said in the statement. "I knew I wanted to continue that from pretty early on."

Ashman was asked to take part in the April 23 ceremony in the Mediterranean Sea, and he agreed — saying it felt like the right thing to do, the Navy said.

He stood on the flight deck with his great-grandfather's urn in his hand at the end of a long, red carpet lined with sailors in their dress blues. The Churchill's chaplain stood across from him and waited to receive the remains to commit them to sea.

The ship's bell struck twice before the master of ceremonies announced the words, "Chief Sig-

nalman James Mitchell, departing," the Navy statement said. As the boatswain's mate began the traditional pipe-whistle call, Ashman walked down the carpet with the urn as sailors saluted on both sides.

Ashman "stood at attention and watched as the chaplain took the remains, now covered in an American flag, and deposited them in the calm Mediterranean water," the statement said.

Ashman said having the rare opportunity to participate in his great-grandfather's sea burial was an honor he never expected.

"I loved my great-grandfather to the moon and back," he said.

"It was a huge coincidence that I ended up going on deployment on the same ship that was carrying his remains, and in a way it felt like it was meant to be."

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TODAY  
IN STRIPES

American Roundup ..... 18  
Business ..... 20  
Classified ..... 49-50  
Comics/Crossword . 42, 46-47  
Faces ..... 43  
Opinion ..... 44-45  
Sports ..... 54-64  
Weather ..... 20

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## MILITARY

# Executive order urges hiring of military spouses

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday encouraging federal agencies to hire more military spouses, a population whose employment lags behind the rest of the United States.

"You're going to be given better treatment than ever before," Trump promised military spouses Wednesday. "We can never repay you for all that you do, but we can and we will give you the opportunities you deserve. When you are strong, your families are strong and America thrives."

The White House described the order as the first step in a larger effort by the Trump administration to increase military spouse employment. Based on a survey, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimated the unemployment rate for military spouses was 16 percent in 2017. The overall unemployment rate in the United States was 3.9 percent as of April. The veteran unemployment rate in April fell to 3.7 percent.

"We are going to change that, and we are going to change it as

quickly as we can," Trump said. "It will go fast."

The executive order pushes agencies to apply more liberally a federal law that gives preference to military spouses for government jobs. The Defense Department is putting the preference to use, but other agencies could do more, said a Trump administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The order also directs the Office of Personnel Management to increase awareness of the hiring preference for military spouses and train agencies about how to use it. It requires government agencies to report how many military spouses they hire each year.

"As a federal government, if we are going to be working with our private sector and asking for others to hire military spouses, we need to lead by example," said Jennifer Korn, a special assistant to the president.

Last year, Kellyanne Conway, a presidential counselor, announced she would examine employment challenges for military spouses. Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and personal adviser,



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump hands souvenir pens to participants in a White House ceremony Wednesday at which he signed an executive order recommending the hiring of military spouses.

has also taken up the issue, Korn said.

Military families frequently move, often with little notice. It is viewed as the biggest challenge facing military spouse employment. Spouses often must quit their jobs and face long periods of unemployment or underemployment after they move, according to a Chamber of Commerce report from 2017.

Spouses who hold professional licenses must also overcome the obstacle of getting licensed in a new state or country. According to a report released Wednesday from Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, 35 percent of military spouses in the labor

market work in occupations that require a license or certification — meaning they must navigate varying licensing laws when they move across state lines.

Trump said Wednesday that his administration is working with states in an attempt to have them remove licensing barriers for military spouses.

The Council of Economic Advisers estimated military spouses earn about \$12,000 less each year than other workers because of constant moves, unpredictable hours, deployments and assignments to rural bases.

When a servicemember is determining whether to stay or leave the military, their spouse's

employment is often a deciding factor, the Chamber of Commerce reported.

"It is really important that the commander in chief not only have the backs of our servicemembers but also have the backs of our military spouses," Korn said. "Having a very healthy military family is important to our national security and also retention in the military."

Trump signed the order at the White House on Wednesday at an event with first lady Melania Trump and military spouses and mothers.

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## House committee OKs aviation safety panel

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday approved a plan to create an independent National Commission on Military Aviation Safety in the wake of a series of deadly aircraft crashes in the past year.

The commission would review military aviation mishaps from 2013 and 2018, compare trends with historical data, assess causes fueling the crashes and make recommendations on safety, training, maintenance, personnel and other policies related to military aviation safety.

The plan's author, Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said Wednesday during a House Armed Services Committee hearing that a series of factors could be contributing to the crashes, not just budget cuts.

"This is becoming a very large problem and it's costing the lives of the men and women serving us," said Smith, the ranking Democrat on the committee. "I don't think it's just the money. The money is certainly part of it. ... I want to figure out where the pictures get every answer we can to make sure that we are creating the safest possible environment in our armed services."

The discussion was part of a marathon "markups" hearing to approve a first draft of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department. The hearing was slated to go

late into Wednesday evening with about 400 amendments under consideration for the next NDAA, or H.R. 5515.

Smith also said the Navy's reports on the deadly crashes of the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain were reminders that Congress can direct more effort to get to the bottom of such incidents.

"I don't think all of us are 100 percent satisfied with what the Navy came back with us on the accidents that happened with the ships," Smith told the committee. "I want to make sure we have an independent commission that really looks at this."

On Friday, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, proposed \$639.1 billion in a military base budget, in addition to another \$69 billion for a war chest called the Overseas Contingency Fund. It followed plans unveiled a week earlier by several House panels that laid out the first wave of spending proposals and policies for the next NDAA.

Thornberry also lauded Smith's plan on Wednesday in light of a refusal on the part of Pentagon officials to concede they are seeing a crisis in aviation crashes.

"It's disturbing to me that there are some people in the Pentagon who even today say it's not really a crisis," he said. "Each of these (crashes) has underlying causes. We still have work to do."

Thornberry said some of the responsibility falls on the shoulders of Congress with defense cuts in recent years,

but other factors such as oxygen-related failures could be contributing to the crashes.

In recent weeks, the House Armed Services Committee, its subpanels and its Senate counterparts have held dozens of hearings to discuss the 2019 priorities for each of the branches as well as a wide-ranging list of challenges facing the military.

Smith's effort for an aviation safety commission comes on the heels of a crash last week of an Air Force C-130 Hercules used by the Puerto Rico Air National Guard. The cargo plane crashed in Savannah, Ga., killing all nine Guard members onboard.

It was the latest in a long string of aircraft crashes. In the last month, at least seven military aircraft have crashed, leaving 16 servicemembers dead.

Despite the string of fatal crashes that have spanned all four branches of the military, Defense Department officials have rejected claims of an emergency.

"This is not a crisis," Pentagon Press Secretary Dana White said last week.

Smith concedes a lack of readiness funding might play a role in the crashes, but he hopes the commission can get to the bottom of all the contributing factors.

"Readiness typically is the last person in line at an inadequately stocked buffet," he said. "And that's a huge problem."

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## DOD civilian cut in break-in on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa police are searching for a man who broke into the home of a Defense Department civilian worker early Sunday before beating and slashing her with what they think was a knife.

The incident happened in Chatan about 2 a.m., when the woman, who is in her 40s, awoke to find an intruder standing inside her bedroom, an Okinawa police spokesman said. She called out to her son, who was in another room, prompting the man to punch her several times in the head before fleeing.

She received a cut on her left forearm that required stitches during the struggle, the spokesman said. Police believe she was slashed with a knife.

The victim described the intruder as approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall and wearing shorts but no shirt or shoes, the spokesman said. She said she had never seen the man before. Her son did not see the attacker.

Police declined to provide the man's race or nationality. Marine Corps officials on Okinawa did not immediately respond to requests seeking comment.

It was unclear Thursday what the victim does for the Defense Department or where she works on the island.

Police, who are trying to establish a motive for the attack, said similar incidents have not been reported in the area.

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## MILITARY

# New vehicles will give 173rd Airborne speed on ground

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The 173rd Airborne Brigade is expecting to get new ground vehicles that can climb hills, ford streams and enable a speedy exit from a drop zone.

The brigade is one of the five airborne brigades scheduled to receive the Ground Mobility Vehicle, a high-performance, four-wheel drive vehicle based on the Flyer Advanced Light Strike Vehicle, sometime next year.

The Flyers, used in the past few years by special operations forces, have a turbocharged diesel 2-liter engine generating 195 horsepower. Their top speed is listed at 95 mph.

"What that means is we can get to our objective faster and more lethally," said Maj. Christopher Bradley, a brigade spokesman.

Bradley said the brigade would learn more details — including when the vehicles would arrive and how many they'll get — at the end of the year.

"We're expecting the initial fielding next spring," he said. "Soldiers like to hear that their long walking trips might be minimized."

Speed is of the essence for airborne troops. The 173rd Airborne Brigade is supposed to be able to deploy within 18 hours, parachuting out of planes to do so if necessary.

"The faster we can get people in — that gives our political leaders some options," then-U.S. Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said during a 2016 NATO exercise in Spain that culminated in a parachute drop from C-17 aircraft. "That's the most important thing: Speed gives political leaders options."

But once paratroopers hit the ground, things slow down. "Most of the time paratroopers walk," Bradley said. "The vast majority of the time, we move out without vehicles."

The \$271,000 Flyer, developed by General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, can accommodate nine soldiers, the size of a typical infantry rifle squad. It can take them up a 60-degree grade, across water up to 30 inches deep and through a rollover.

It has a range of 300 miles, and Army officials touted the vehicle's suspension for its smooth ride.

"It's great for soldiers riding in a vehicle for a long period of time," Bradley said. Flyers are also designed to support modern communications systems, he said.

Army photos show Flyers equipped with an M2 .50-caliber heavy machine gun and an M240 7.62 mm medium machine gun. The vehicles can be converted into lightly armored vehicles with modular panels.

The Flyer was designed to provide special operations forces



Photos courtesy of General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems

The 173rd Airborne Brigade is scheduled to receive the Ground Mobility Vehicle, based on the Flyer Advanced Light Strike Vehicle, next year.



Officials say the new Ground Mobility Vehicle could help airborne troops get out of the drop zone quicker.

with a lightweight vehicle that could be airdropped — from C-130s and larger aircraft, as well as CH-47 Chinook helicopters and Ospreys — and be configured for a variety of missions.

Mass combat jumps have been

rare since World War II and the increased use of helicopters to insert troops.

The 82nd Airborne Division made its first combat jump in more than 40 years in 1989 during the U.S. invasion of Panama.

The 173rd has jumped into combat twice in more than five decades — once in Vietnam and once in Iraq.

Consequently, some experts have questioned the utility of airborne troops in modern warfare, especially against opponents with sophisticated anti-aircraft defenses.

But a 2014 Rand Corp. study said that airborne forces, "unique in their ability to quickly deploy worldwide," could be made more capable by including light armored vehicles in drops.

The study said a historical survey of airborne operations since 1989 demonstrated the value of quickly deployable forces.

The analysis concluded that dropping vehicles with airborne troops would "increase speed, mobility, and survivability."

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## USS Truman group strikes Islamic State targets in Syria

By SCOTT WYLAND  
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD USS HARRY S. TRUMAN — The most powerful carrier strike group to operate in the Middle East in years is pounding Islamic State in Syria, where it is still seen as a serious threat to the region.

The aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman has been launching around-the-clock sorties this week from its location in the eastern Mediterranean to bomb remaining ISIS militants, who are confined mostly to two small pockets of the Middle Euphrates River Valley, comprising about 2 percent of the territory in Syria and Iraq that the group once occupied.

Although ISIS has been severely depleted, the Navy has deployed one of the largest strike groups in the region since Desert Storm to deal with the remnants.

"This is the biggest one that's sailed from the East Coast for quite some time," Vice Adm. Gene Black, carrier strike group commander, said Tuesday. "It's a pretty potent force with lots of capabilities the Navy can put to sea."

The strike group includes the destroyers USS Farragut, USS Forrest Sherman, USS Bulkeley and USS Arleigh Burke, along



KAYSEE LOHMANN/ Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Capt. Nicholas Dienna, back, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman, and executive officer Cmdr. David Snowden participate in a foreign object debris walk-down on the ship's flight deck Monday.

with the missile cruiser USS Normandy and several aviation and support squadrons. A German frigate is also part of the force, and the destroyers USS Jason Dunham and USS The Sullivans will join later.

The strike group, which began launch-

ing sorties on May 3, is operating in a politically tense region.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday withdrew the U.S. from a nuclear agreement with Iran, a longtime ally of Syria, Russia, which has a naval base in the Syri-

an port of Tartus, has condemned the U.S., France and Britain for launching a joint attack on suspected Syrian chemical weapon sites in April.

Capt. Nicholas Dienna, the Truman's commander, said all the encounters with Russian warships so far have been professional.

This strike group's firepower harkens back to the battle groups the U.S. deployed in the Mediterranean during the Cold War to face down Russia's naval forces, said Jim Holmes, professor of strategy at the Naval War College.

"It feels like 1973 again," Holmes said, referring to the U.S.-Soviet naval confrontation during the Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War. "Yes, we want to support our regional allies and attack our common ISIS enemies, but the great power show is the main show, and Syria is the sideshow."

Both Black and Dienna said a show of force is a key objective; however, Dienna noted that the primary mission still is to eliminate terrorists in the region.

"Fundamentally, I would say there's not a whole lot that's really different," he said.

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## PACIFIC

# Trump, Kim to meet June 12 in Singapore

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will hold the first-ever U.S.-North Korean summit June 12 in Singapore, Trump said Thursday.

The announcement sets the stage for tough talks that will test recent diplomatic efforts at ending the crisis over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The details were revealed hours after three freed American detainees arrived home following more than a year in North Korean custody, clearing the last major hurdle for the historic meeting.

"The highly anticipated meeting between Kim Jong Un and myself will take place in Singapore on June 12th," Trump said in a tweet. "We will both try to make it a very special moment for World Peace!"

Trump agreed to meet with Kim in a surprise move after the exclusive leader expressed a willingness to discuss denuclearization.

But the lack of a date and venue raised speculation that the two sides were facing disagreements over key issues.

The choice of Singapore was widely expected after Trump ruled out plans to meet in the truce village of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Korean Peninsula.

Singapore, a prosperous island city of 5.6 million people, is considered a neutral site for both countries. It maintains diplomatic relations with the North and is believed to be close enough that

Kim may feel comfortable flying there on his aging Soviet-era plane.

Trump is hoping to build on the dramatic success of the April 27 summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, which was held in the DMZ.

The two leaders agreed to foster a warm relationship and emerged with an agreement to try to formally end their 1950-53 war and to achieve the "complete denuclearization" of the peninsula.

But the deal was lacking in specific measures, and experts warn the sides are likely to face sharp differences over the meaning of denuclearization.

The United States has demanded the verifiable dismantling of the North's nuclear weapons program, while Kim has called for a phased approach.

The Kim family that has ruled North Korea since it was founded in 1948 has long sought a meeting with a sitting U.S. president, and many observers have argued that Trump's agreement to hold the summit represented a victory in itself for Pyongyang.

Trump expressed optimism earlier Thursday after he greeted the three Korean-American men once held by North Korea with failure at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

He said it was a "great honor" to welcome the men home but stressed "the true honor is going to be if we have a victory in getting rid of nuclear weapons."

He thanked Kim for allowing the detainees to return with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo after his visit to Pyongyang.

"We're starting off on a new footing," Trump said. "This is a wonderful thing that he released the folks early. That was a big thing, very important to me, and I really think we have a very good chance of doing something very meaningful."

The North Korean leader also welcomed plans for the summit earlier Thursday in a report on the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Kim said the summit would be an "excellent first step toward promotion of the positive situation development in the Korean Peninsula and building of a good future," KCNA said in a report about Pompeo's visit.

Diplomatic momentum has been building since the North Korean leader agreed to join the Winter Olympics earlier this year.

The about-face has eased tensions after months of threats and personal insults, with Trump calling Kim "little rocket man" and threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea if forced to defend the United States and its allies.

Kim has suspended nuclear and missile tests and agreed to close the North's main nuclear testing site.

"We should treat the summit as an opening of a longer process of negotiations with North Korea," said Adam Mount, a senior fellow at the Federation of American



Courtesy of Rodong Sinmun

**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo poses with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a photo published by the Rodong Sinmun newspaper.**

Scientists.

He said it would be "wishful thinking" to expect the two leaders to reach an irrevocable denuclearization agreement.

"The Trump administration should impose a cap on North Korean nuclear programs and seek to limit the threat from North Korean ICBMs, but they shouldn't agree to stop there," he said in a telephone interview.

Mount also said Trump should keep U.S. troops based in South Korea off the table.

The president has hinted that he may consider a reduction in forces as part of cost-sharing negotiations with the South, although he has insisted the issue will not be a bargaining chip with the North.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are stationed in the South after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of

a peace treaty.

"It has been North Korea's consistent position for decades that U.S. Forces Korea should limit its activities and withdraw," Mount said. "Trump's comments during the campaign and his focus on burden-sharing I think has not done us any favors in that regard."

Past administrations have gained agreements from the North Koreans only to see the deals collapse amid allegations of cheating and distrust.

Trump and other administration officials have vowed to maintain Trump's maximum pressure campaign of punishing economic sanctions and efforts to isolate the regime and deprive it of much-needed foreign currency.

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## Welcome: 'We're starting off on a new footing,' Trump says

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump thanked the North Korean leader for releasing the Americans and said he believes Kim wants to reach an agreement on denuclearization at their upcoming summit. "I really think he wants to do something," the president said.

Pence, despite his words about conditions the three detainees endured, was careful in a round of morning TV appearances to strike a positive note. He said North Korea "has taken steps that indicate this may be an opportunity for a breakthrough" in relations with the U.S.

"In this moment the regime in North Korea has been dealing, as far as we can see, in good faith," he told NBC News.

The men were taken to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where they are to be evaluated and receive medical treatment before being reunited with their families.

Shortly before 3 a.m. the president's first lady boarded a medical plane on which the men had traveled and spent several minutes meeting with them privately. The group then emerged at the top of the airplane stairway, where the men held up their arms in an exuberant display.

As the men entered into view,

U.S. servicemembers on the tarmac burst into applause and cheers.

"This is a special night for these three really great people," Trump told reporters. On the U.S. relationship with North Korea, Trump declared, "We're starting off on a new footing."

The freed prisoners appeared tired but in excellent spirits, flashing peace signs and waving their arms as they emerged from the aircraft. When asked by reporters how it felt to be home, one of the men answered through a translator, "It's like a dream; we are very, very happy." They later gave the president a round of applause.

The White House carefully choreographed the event, hoisting a giant American flag between two firetrucks on the tarmac and inviting reporters to witness the return. The image-conscious president told reporters, "I think you probably broke the all-time-in-history television rating for 3 o'clock in the morning."

Hours later, Trump tweeted, "On behalf of the American people, WELCOME HOME!"

The highly public display stood in stark contrast to the low-key and very private reception that the State Department had envisioned, in keeping with a tradition

of trying to protect potentially traumatized victims from being thrust into the spotlight so soon after their ordeal.

Department officials took great pains on the prisoners' release in North Korea, as well as on their flights to Japan and Alaska, to keep them sequestered not only from the two journalists traveling with Pompeo but also from staffers not immediately involved in their cases.

State Department officials refused to discuss anything but the most basic details of their conditions, citing privacy concerns in keeping with the minimal amount of information they had released since the men were imprisoned.

Pompeo had secured their release in Pyongyang after meeting with Kim on final plans for the Trump-Kim summit.

Shortly after they touched down in Alaska, the State Department released a statement from the freed men.

"We would like to express our deep appreciation to the United States government, President Trump, Secretary Pompeo, and the people of the United States for bringing us home," they said. "We thank God, and all our families and friends who prayed for us and for our return. God bless America, the greatest nation in

the world."

Trump entered office as an emboldened North Korea developed new generations of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles capable of hitting the continental U.S. Those advances were the subject of President Barack Obama's starkest warning shortly before Trump took office, and this is a crisis he's convinced his negotiating skills can resolve.

Crediting himself for recent progress, Trump has pointed to Kim's willingness to come to the negotiating table as validating U.S. moves to tighten sanctions — branded "maximum pressure" by the president.

Kim decided to grant amnesty to the three Americans at the "official suggestion" of the U.S. president, said North Korea's official news agency, KCNA.

North Korea had accused the three Korean-Americans of anti-state activities. Their arrests were widely seen as politically motivated and had compounded the dire state of relations over the isolated nation's nuclear weapons.

The last American to be released before this, college student Otto Warmbier, died in June 2017, days after he was repatriated to the U.S. with severe brain damage.

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## PACIFIC

# Former Marine supports Okinawa anti-base effort

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — A small but passionate protest movement in Okinawa has been fighting for decades to see a reduced military footprint within the tiny southern Japanese island prefecture.

In recent months it has received support from an unlikely individual: a former U.S. Marine who was arrested outside Camp Schwab in December while protesting the relocation of Marine Corps air operations on the island.

Miles Thomas, 43, is a hip-hop artist and member of Veterans For Peace, a nonprofit group that aims to "inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of war, with an obligation to heal the wounds of war."

Thomas, an MC in Kansas City, Mo., who goes by the stage name Megaciph, says he is dedicated to the removal of U.S. military bases from Okinawa.

In January, he released a music video, "Nuchi Du Takara," or "All Life is a Treasure," which shines a light on Okinawa's protest movement. Thomas came of age in the Marine Corps while stationed on Okinawa in the mid-1990s.

Videos of him performing the song have been used on Okinawan protest group websites, and he hopes his music will inspire others to take a stand against global militarization.

"It's a simple matter of human rights over humiliation, hence the daily demonstrations and colorful cloth placements," Thomas raps on the track. "For all the noise and harassment and Ospreys crashing, the illegal land grab's an American embarrassment..."

"It's completely a part of my life and my responsibility to help the people of Okinawa in any way I can and to stand in solidarity with them and get all of the bases off Okinawa and the rest of the planet, too," he said. "The reaction has been stellar; the Okinawan response has been incredible. I'm happy I made the song."

## Shaped by the Marines

Thomas got into "socially conscious hip-hop" like Public Enemy, N.W.A. and A Tribe Called Quest while growing up in New York City. At 15, he moved to Atlanta, where he said poor academics drove him to the Marines.

In 1992, Thomas arrived at boot camp on Parris Island, S.C., where he said he witnessed the gang beating of a recruit.

"It's a time in my life that I wouldn't take back — it made me who I am — but it was some of the worst times of my life as well," he said.

"It was horribly racist — that started in boot camp — very sexist and very dehumanizing," he added. "They essentially strip us of our humanity. ... I wasn't the same person after boot camp."

The former mortarman deployed twice, first to Guantánamo Bay and later to Camp



Courtesy of Miles Thomas

Miles Thomas, also known as Megaciph, is a former Marine-turned-Veterans For Peace activist and hip-hop artist who supports Okinawa's movement opposing the U.S. presence on the island.

## Excerpt from Megaciph's 'Nuchi Du Takara'

Long before America was born, this became the Ryukyu nation

Predating by more than 400 years imperialist Japanese annexation

Then U.S. offensives came to fight and kill and this island was taken

In the Battle of Okinawa away from the country of the rising sun

Now busting big guns is still done often makes civilians anxious

The situation's simply one of ethnic oppression, let's just face it

For the seven generations coming, their views and imaginations

And all the lives unnecessarily taken opposing these occupations

Chorus:

Nuchi du takara, nuchi du takara

No new Futenna; Henoko Bay feeds us

Nuchi du takara, nuchi du takara

Any means you measure Okinawans are

together

Nuchi du takara, nuchi du takara

All life is a treasure; all life is precious

Nuchi du takara, nuchi du takara

Shut the bases down forever ...

Schwab, accented by stops in North Carolina.

He was on Okinawa in 1995 when two Marines and a Navy corpsman gang-raped a 12-year-old local girl. The high-profile incident sent shock waves across the island, and the effects of it are still felt today.

"I didn't know what those protesters were doing," he said of the 1995 backlash. "We were never told."

Thomas learned the art of making hip-hop music from a fellow Marine in his company during his first stint in North Carolina. He turned his anger into raps about guns and death. He was also given his first nickname, Ciph, which stands for "Crushing Individuals Playing Hard."

Thomas said he was kicked out of the Marines in 1996, a few months shy of completing his four-year enlistment, after failing a urine test for cannabis. He was bumped down from lance corporal to private and received an "other than honorable"

discharge.

"I'm happy I got kicked out because it had totally desensitized me," he said. "I was over it."

Thomas continued to crank out violent rap music after his discharge. He said he sold drugs, got into trouble with the law, pushed his friends away and was homeless at one point.

"I found myself walking home from jail — well, to a friend's house because I didn't have a home," he said. "I decided right then and there that I had to change."

The next day he started tai chi and later transformed himself into Megaciph, a bigger version and a better person than the old Ciph. Megaciph stands for Mental Energies Gather and Circulate in Positive Harmony.

"The darkness that I was embracing was because of the trauma I had experienced in the Marine Corps," he said.

Thomas went back to school. He got his bachelor's degree in English with a minor in music management from Georgia State

University in 2006, then a master's degree in nonprofit management from The New University in 2010. He got married, traveled around Europe and had children.

Thomas said he then dedicated himself to activism and making the world a better place by focusing on human rights and self-empowerment.

He has released four albums since 2006, including his debut, "Graduate Program." In 2014, he joined Veterans For Peace, a St. Louis nonprofit made up of active-duty servicemembers and veterans dedicated to peace and the abolition of war. He donated the proceeds from his album "CIVIL.L.A.M." to the group.

When Thomas learned that a VFP delegation would travel to Okinawa in 2017, he immediately had the idea to write a song.

Thomas said he supports the protesters because he views militarization and the environmental impacts of bases in general as directly related to his children's future and the safety of the planet.

He views silence on issues as a form of complacency.

"The environmental destruction that the bases do as a whole is offensive to me," he said. "It's just one of those things that makes me sad."

During his recent trip to Okinawa, Thomas returned to the streets he had walked as a much younger man.

"Seeing it from a different side was very eye-opening for me," he said. "I feel a lot of personal guilt for the madness I took part in in Okinawa. It sounds selfish but being able to help is healing for me."

Thomas was arrested in December 2017 for resisting police after blocking a column of Marine armored vehicles as they tried to leave Camp Schwab.

"I believe empowerment comes from self-realization," he said. "If people did more introspection and spent more time looking inward and healing what's going on inside, in our world as a whole, I think it'd be a much better place."

## Looking ahead

Thomas said he remains dedicated to Veterans For Peace and his message of peace. He said his anti-base video is destined to evoke a passionate response from people on all sides of the issue.

"The perception of Veterans For Peace is like a radical leftist, like on the verge of terrorist organization," he said. "But we're very patriotic. A patriot is supposed to question their government and make you follow the rule of law, and challenge those laws that are corrupt and need to be changed."

Okinawa's protest leaders appreciated Thomas and VFP's contribution to their efforts.

"It is valuable to have veterans that participate in peace and anti-war activities based on their experience," said Takashi Kishi moto, a deputy secretary-general of Okinawa Peace Activity Center, one of the island's most prominent protest groups. Kishimoto introduced Thomas when he performed his song at a protest. He also read a Japanese translation of the song.

"It is reassuring that these people are opposing the bases in Okinawa with us," he said. "I am extremely happy that he sang about the feelings of the Okinawan people."

Thomas has been performing "Nuchi Du Takara" in the U.S. and passing out anti-base literature. He hopes to return to Okinawa and continue his work.

"The military and war cannot bring about peace," he said. "We worked for the war machine and we know it's wrong. Change the world from inside yourself, from inside your home, and with your purchasing power. People's purchasing power can change the world."

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report. burke.matt@starsandstripes.com

## MILITARY

# Spanish medical team reattaches US sailor's hand

Stars and Stripes

An American sailor who lost his hand in an industrial accident aboard a submarine off Spain's southeastern coast had it reattached by a Spanish surgical team.

The accident happened March 27 aboard the guided-missile submarine USS Georgia, the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet said in a statement Friday.

After being stabilized by the medical team aboard the Georgia, the injured sailor was taken to the hospital by boat and helicopter in the early hours of March 28, according to Spanish maritime rescue agency Salvamento Marítimo, which released a video of the rescue.

Then it was time for Dr. Pedro Cavadas, a surgeon at Hospital de Manises in Valencia, and his team to get to work.

It took about 10 hours between the amputation and the sailor's arrival at the hospital, the doctor told the Spanish newspaper El País. The surgical team used a catheter between the artery of the stump and an artery from the hand to provide irrigation. Then they used a skin graft from the submariner's leg to help with the reattachment, which took about five hours, the doctor said.

Cavadas and his team were given awards for their efforts by the U.S. Navy on May 4. Adm. James Foggo III, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa



JONATHAN NELSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

From left, Adm. James Foggo III, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Italy; Dr. Pedro Cavadas, a neurosurgeon at Hospital de Manises in Valencia, Spain; and Capt. Michael McGinnis, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Force Surgeon, speak at a news conference at the hospital May 4 in front of a photo of Cavadas with a sailor whose hand had been amputated and reattached.

and Allied Joint Force Command Naples, said in a Navy statement, "The response to this incident

is a testament to enduring partnership between the U.S. and Spain."

The sailor is expected to recover fully, Foggo said.

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## Doctors grow new ear in arm of soldier needing transplant

By ALLYSON CHIU  
The Washington Post

Two years ago, Army Pvt. Shamika Burrage almost died when she was ejected from her car during a crash in Texas. Afterward, when she woke up in the hospital, she wasn't whole. Her entire left ear was gone.

But Burrage, now 21, is on the path to recovery. Due to a procedure hailed as the "first of its kind" in the Army, an ear was reconstructed and "grown" under the skin of her right forearm, according to the Army.

No prostheses were needed. Instead, plastic surgeons used the soldier's own cartilage.

The ear later was attached to Burrage's head by surgeons at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso. The Army said Burrage recovered her hearing and that the operation was a success, according to a statement Monday.

The total ear reconstruction involved doctors' carving a new ear out of cartilage harvested from Burrage's ribs, the statement said. The ear then was placed under her forearm skin to let it grow.

The procedure is one of the most complicated ear constructions in the U.S., according to an ABC News report, and allows for the formation of new blood vessels in the cartilage. This means Burrage also will



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**A total ear reconstruction involved the carving of a new ear out of cartilage harvested from a patient's ribs.**

have feeling in her new ear once rehabilitation is complete, the Army's statement said.

"The whole goal is by the time she's done with all this, it looks good, it's sensate, and in five years if somebody doesn't know her

they won't notice," Lt. Col. Owen Johnson III, the chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the medical center, was quoted as saying in the statement.

"As a young active-duty Soldier, they deserve the best reconstruction they can get," he said.

Losing her ear was just one of many injuries Burrage sustained in 2016 when the front tire of her car blew out, causing the car to skid 700 feet before flipping multiple times.

Burrage was driving with her pregnant cousin from Mississippi to Fort Bliss, Texas, when the crash happened. While her cousin escaped with only minor wounds, Burrage suffered head injuries as well as compression fractures in the spine.

"I was on the ground, I just looked up and (her cousin) was right there," she said in the statement. "Then I remember people walking up to us, asking if we were OK, and then I blacked out."

Had she received medical assistance 30 minutes later than she did, doctors said she would have bled to death.

After the accident, Burrage said she didn't feel comfortable with how she looked and was presented with plastic surgery as an option. While she initially was scared about going through with the reconstruction, she said she wanted to see what doctors could do.

"I was going to go with the prosthetic,

to avoid more scarring but I wanted a real ear," Burrage said.

Although this was the first time this kind of ear reconstruction was attempted by an Army surgeon, the idea of growing ears is not new to science or medicine.

In the 1990s, an alarming, but real, photo of a mouse with what appeared to be a human ear attached to its back was circulated widely. Now known as the Vacanti Mouse, the critter was part of research studying how feasible it was to grow human ears made of cartilage.

There have also been at least two cases in which doctors performed procedures similar to what Burrage underwent. In 2012, a woman lost her ear to cancer and grew a replacement under her forearm skin, ABC News reported. A few years later, doctors in China attempted to grow an ear in the arm of a man who had been in a car accident, according to China Daily.

For Burrage, she may have both her ears, but her recovery is not yet over. In addition to the transplant, epidermis from her forearm will be used to cover scar tissue in the area immediately around her left jawline, the statement said.

With only two more surgeries left, Burrage said she's feeling more optimistic and excited.

"It's been a long process for everything, but I'm back," she said.

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# PACIFIC

## US and Philippine troops storm beach in Balikatan drills

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

American and Philippine troops stormed a beach on the western shore of Luzon island Wednesday during the allies' largest joint drills since President Rodrigo Duterte assumed power nearly two years ago.

About 8,000 from both countries are participating in the 34th iteration of the annual Balikatan exercise, which means "shoulder to shoulder" in Tagalog. It runs through May 18 in the Philippines.

Before the beach landing, four Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicles from the Hawaii-based 3rd Combat Support Company launched from Zambales Province carrying a platoon of American and Philippine Marines, according to a statement issued Thursday by forces involved in Balikatan.

The floating troop carriers maneuvered around the Philippine navy's landing platform dock ship BRP Davao Del Sur before heading back to shore, where the Marines stormed onto the beach, the statement said.

The beach assault took place in the same area where the allies conducted similar training during annual PHIBLEX amphibious landing exercises before they were canceled by Duterte shortly after he took office. The maverick strongman had clashed with U.S. officials over his war on drugs and was looking for closer ties

with China and Russia.

However, U.S.-Philippines relations improved last year as American troops supporting Philippine soldiers battled Islamic militants in the south and China continued to militarize outposts on disputed sea territory.

The goal of the Luzon landings was to improve the rapid deployment of forces during military operations on a hostile shore, exercise director Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat said in the statement.

"Amphibious training is an important part of Balikatan Exercise as it enhances the capabilities of both [militaries] during operations from sea to land," he said.

Troops landing on a beach could face dangerous weather or even an aggressive enemy, the statement said.

"Bilateral training increases our ability to respond quickly and work together effectively as a combined unit," Lt. Col. Daniel Gaskell, commander of the Camp Lejeune-based 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, said in the statement.

"By doing this [amphibious] landing as one team we are able to learn from our partners and function as a cohesive unit when responding to a real-world crisis," he said. "By training together now, we don't lose time when our nations need us the most."

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PHOTOS BY BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Philippine and U.S. Marines take their positions Wednesday as they storm the beach during an amphibious landing exercise at the two-week joint U.S.-Philippines military exercise dubbed Balikatan 34-2018 at the Naval Education and Training Command in Zambales province, northwestern Philippines.



Above: U.S. Marines leaving an amphibious assault vehicle take positions as they storm the beach Wednesday in the Philippines.

Near left: Philippine and U.S. Marines begin their assault.

Far left: U.S. Marines take positions on the beach.

## Marine Corps F-35Bs train with Japanese F-35As for first time

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Eight Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters are training alongside Japanese F-35As for the first time in northern Japan.

The Aviation Training Relocation, which kicked off Thursday and runs through May 22 at Misawa Air Base, also features four Misawa-based F-2 fighters, four Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-15s from Chitose Air

Base and one AWAC from the Airborne Warning and Control Group at Hamamatsu Air Base, local media reported.

This year marks the first time the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni-based fifth-generation F-35B has been involved in the annual training, which has been taking place since 1997. The aircraft will conduct combat drills involving air-to-ground bombing, the reports said. They also will practice shooting and bombing a ground target at the Misawa Air-to-Ground Firing Practice Range.

"Misawa Aircraft Training Relocation provides our Marines and Sailors an excellent opportunity to train with our U.S. Air Force counterparts and Japanese allies in the spirit of mutual security cooperation, while at the same time, allowing us to further hone our skills across a spectrum of F-35 mission sets," Col. Mark Palmer, the Marine Aircraft Group 12 commander, said in a statement.

U.S. and Japanese airmen welcomed the first operational JASDF F-35A to Misawa earlier this year. It was the first of 10 that

would make up Japan's inaugural fifth-generation fighter squadron.

The F-35A takes off and lands like a traditional fighter jet but has the same airframe and other characteristics of the Marines' short-takeoff, vertical-landing-capable B variant.

Japan plans to buy 42 F-35As to replace its fleet of 60-year-old F-4 Phantom II fighters.

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## MILITARY

## Climate: Earlier version more direct on sea rise

FROM FRONT PAGE

Heather Babb, a Pentagon spokeswoman, declined to comment on the draft report, but outlined the results of the department's first-ever survey of officials at different installations about the effects of climate change. The Post was not able to verify who made the changes reflected in the two documents.

"As highlighted in the report, the effects of climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to missions, operational plans, and installations," Babb said in a statement. "DOD continues to focus on ensuring its installations and infrastructure are resilient to a wide range of threats, including climate." The Department has a proven record of planning and preparing for such threats.

According to John Conger, who served as a senior Pentagon official under the Obama administration and was among the officials who initiated the multi-base survey that forms the basis of the report, employees from a dozen different Defense Department offices could have made changes to the text as it made its way through the bureaucracy's clearance process, which often makes for "low common-denominator" documents.

Conger said the alterations "change the feeling of urgency in the report, but not its fundamental conclusion — that our military installations are clearly experiencing climate impacts."

The document, a 32-page report to Congress, was published more than a year after the earlier draft. It, like its earlier version, finds that out of more than 3,500 military sites around the world, 782 reported being affected by drought, 763 by major wind events and 706 by flooding, along with other problems — results that drew considerable attention when they debuted in late January.

But the December 2016 draft was far more direct in its discussion of climate change and in particular the sea-level rise threat, a well-known problem facing many military sites in coastal areas, from the sprawling naval base in Norfolk, Va., to the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site in the Pacific's remote Marshall Islands. Seas are currently rising by about 3.2 millimeters per year, and scientists fear the rise could accelerate in coming decades.

The final Pentagon document even omits, in several cases, the simple observation that learning

about bases' vulnerability to sea-level rise was a core part of the survey that is the subject of the report. That survey itself asked each military site how much of its area was located at elevations 0 to 3-, 3-to-6-, 6-to-9 or 9-to-12 feet above sea level.

The final document also removes a map showing "those sites that indicated possible effects could occur due to increased mean sea level between 0-3 feet." (A few references to sea-level rise do remain in the final version of the report and in the survey questions themselves, contained in an appendix.)

"The wordsmithing, not saying 'climate,' I could live with that," said Dennis McGinn, a retired Navy vice admiral who served as assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment in the Obama administration, when some of the changes were described to him. "But taking out ... maps of critical areas of flooding, that's pretty fundamental. And the Arctic, that's huge, for a lot of reasons, not just for Department of Defense, but for the Coast Guard, and commercial shipping business."

The report emerged from a process commenced by the previous administration as officials in Washington sought to get a sense of how climate-related phenomena could affect military installations dotting the globe. President Barack Obama's focus on climate change created a sense of urgency for federal agencies, including the Pentagon's Defense Department, to prepare for its effects.

The published version removes a reference to the National Climate Assessment, which the U.S. government, by law, undertakes every four years. It also omits several references to the decline of Arctic sea ice, an ongoing phenomenon that has been strongly attributed to climate change. One such case is found in a description of conditions at the Cape Lisburne radar station on Alaska's North Slope.

A statement that "the past decade have seen a climate-related downward trend in the extent of Arctic sea ice coverage" does not appear in the final report, nor does a description of extreme weather events being "made more destructive by a reduction in sea ice and an increase in ice-free periods," since winds, protective sea ice, large waves and a punnel fatigue Arctic coastlines during storms.

And where the draft report says that shoreline erosion at the site is caused by "reduced sea ice

coverage," the final document instead blames the damage on "sea ice fluctuations."

In another omitted section, the draft document addresses ways in which a changing climate could affect the ability to train troops.

"The changing climate could increase risk to the 420 endangered species that live on our installations, potentially leading to training and operating restrictions," the omitted section reads.

"Increased high-heat days limit the training and testing activities our personnel can safely perform without appropriate rest periods," it continues.

The survey at the center of the report in its various versions, asked military installations a battery of detailed questions about different extreme events that have affected them, along with requesting information about installations' elevation and vulnerability to sea level rise.

Among the questions asked were:

■ "Has your installation been negatively impacted by wind?"

■ "Has your installation been negatively impacted by extreme hot or cold temperatures?"

■ "What might be negatively impacted/degraded with an increase of 0 to 12 feet in mean sea level?"

Current and former officials said that the wording and content of the report was unlikely to have a bearing on how the military services respond — or do not respond — to climate change. In some ways, the military has been seen as proactive in its attitude to climate issues, seeking to protect infrastructure in places such as Norfolk from changing weather, producing a massive climate change "road map" and planning for changes in the Arctic.

In other ways, however, the military has taken only modest action as it operates its massive network of power-intensive bases and air, ship and vehicle fleets, and provides food and housing to its personnel around the world.

"I think in DOD, there is generally a belief it's more important what you do than to fight about how you talk about it," said Jeffrey Marqusee, a former director of environmental and energy research and development at the office of the secretary of defense.

It's not like they've generally a belief it's more important what you do than to fight about how you talk about it," said Jeffrey Marqusee, a former director of environmental and energy research and development at the office of the secretary of defense. "They've generally been pretty forthcoming."

Beach VA to meet with veterans. He was wounded when serving in Afghanistan in 2010, which resulted in the amputation of both of his legs.

Mast, 37, often has voted with Trump on key issues in Congress.

Trump is seeking a nominee to lead the VA after White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson withdrew his nomination for the post last month.

From The Associated Press

## Afghan receives prison in Germany for role in attacks

## Murder charge tied to the death of a US soldier in 2014 was dropped

By MARCUS KLOECKNER  
AND JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An Afghan refugee seeking asylum in Germany has been sentenced to four years and 10 months in jail for his role in attacks against U.S. and Afghan government forces while he was a teen in Afghanistan.

The Higher Regional Court in Munich found Abdul Moghadas S., 21, guilty of attempted murder, according to the *Heimatzeitung*, a local news site.

A murder charge connected to the death of a U.S. soldier in 2014 was dropped, according to news reports. Abdul — whose full name has not been released in accordance with German law — faced up to 10 years in prison for murder.

A conviction was returned even though prosecutors never definitively stated who Abdul tried to kill, though they suggested he might have attacked two different soldiers who died in the same province where Abdul was located.

Pfc. Christian Jacob "Jake" Chandler was gunned down while on a combat patrol in Afghanistan on April 28, 2014, about the same time Abdul was said to have helped a U.S. convoy with the Taliban guerrillas.

Chandler's mother, Rhonda Beazley, said this week from her home in Texas that she was disappointed German authorities didn't investigate the case more thoroughly. No one from the German government or the prosecutor's office contacted her — she had heard about the case from the FBI, she said.

"Given the history of their country, I can understand their stance on extradition, and even the death penalty, but I simply cannot understand the reasons to not investigate a case involving crimes against humanity," Beazley said.

The case against Abdul was built mostly on statements he provided about his time in Afghanistan for his asylum application in Bavaria, where he had settled after fleeing his home country, according to news reports and his lawyer, Marc Juedt.

Germany does not extradite defendants when the death pen-

alty is a potential punishment, as is the case in Afghanistan. The court proceedings were closed to the public because Abdul was a juvenile when prosecutors said he committed the crime.

Juedt told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday that his client accepted the verdict and has chosen not to appeal it. But Juedt told the *Heimatzeitung* that the court's decision was wrong, given that it could not "come close to determining the time or the location" of the incident involving the attempted murder charge.

Prosecutors claimed Abdul was an Islamic extremist, but Juedt said that Abdul was forced to join the Taliban.

Soon after joining the guerrillas at the age of 16, he began to work covertly for the Afghan government's intelligence agency, Juedt said. He later fled the country after the Taliban became suspicious of him, according to the indictment against him.

Juedt said the court recognized Abdul worked for Afghan intelligence and tried to prevent attacks, yet held him responsible for other attacks, he said.

German federal prosecutors use statements Abdul made, while seeking asylum, about his participation in attacks against U.S. and Afghan forces to charge him last summer with "collaborated murder" — essentially being an accomplice to murder — and attempted murder, among other crimes. He was arrested in February 2017 in Bavaria.

Prosecutors said it was the first time Germany had tried someone for the death of a U.S. soldier abroad, a legal precedent made possible by a legal change that came after the 9/11 attacks.

However, the case was riddled with challenges. Prosecutors offered no direct link to Abdul and the deaths of Chandler or Spc. Kerry M.G. Danyluk, the only other U.S. soldier killed in combat remotely close to where Abdul was at the time. Danyluk died April 15, 2014, at the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, several days after being wounded in Afghanistan.

Both soldiers' names were mentioned during the trial, Juedt said.

Beazley said Wednesday marked the fourth anniversary of the arrival of her son's remains home.

"Justice was served, in a fashion, and I can live with that," she said.

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## Trump considering Army veteran for VA secretary

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump is considering an Army veteran who is a Republican member of Congress for the position of Veterans Affairs secretary, part of a lengthening search for a nominee following the abrupt firing of David Shulkin in March.

White House officials on Thursday said Rep. Brian Mast, of Florida, who was elected to the

House in 2016, was among the list of candidates for the job heading an agency of 360,000 employees serving 9 million veterans.

The White House official would not say if Mast is the leading candidate for the VA position. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Mast is the first member of Congress to open a member satellite office in a VA facility, setting up shop in the West Palm

## MILITARY

# Panel OKs military pay increase in funding bill

## Troops would get largest raise in nearly 10 years

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A House committee approved the highest military pay raise in nearly a decade, boosted troop levels across all services and authorized funding for new weapons and equipment during a marathon hearing on the next defense policy plan.

After more than 12 hours of debate, the House Armed Services Committee approved the massive legislation just after midnight Thursday morning in a vote of 60-1. The lone no vote came from Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii.

The plan marks an early stage of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which will be debated numerous times before final approval.

"This bill takes the crucial next steps to rebuilding our military and reforming the Pentagon," Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the committee's chairman, said when opening the hearing's debate Wednesday morning. "Our nation owes the men and women who serve the best equipment, the best training, the best support that it can provide."

"We have not given them our best in the past, and we are seeing some of the consequences of that failure."

The plan, which also includes an extension of special pay and bonuses for servicemembers and new ships, planes and other acquisitions, was the center of the House committee's "mark-ups" hearing to approve the next NDAA, or H.R. 5515, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department.

The hearing considered about 400 amendments to the bill.

The proposed NDAA would install new policies toward creating a Space Command and would proceed with a plan that could trigger aggressive cuts at dozens of Defense Department support agencies.

The hearing was marked by tight votes and extensive debate on a series of controversial issues tied to proposals from President Donald Trump, from expanding the country's nuclear weapons cache to funding a southern border wall to halting a military parade.

Democratic efforts to shoot down those proposals all failed.

"We love parades, but let me tell you from one soldier, we don't like parades," Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Md., an Army veteran, argued in an effort to restrict the parade to just ceremonial units and equipment. "They take a lot of work. We look good when we are in parades and ceremonial formations because we spend an



JAKE GREENBERG/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

An F/A-18E Super Hornet lands aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis on April 19, 2019. The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act approved by the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday includes money to purchase 24 new Super Hornets.

**‘This bill takes the crucial next steps to rebuilding our military and reforming the Pentagon. Our nation owes the men and women who serve the best equipment, the best training, the best support that it can provide.’**

Rep. Mac Thornberry

R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee

outsized amount of time preparing for them."

In recent weeks, the House Armed Services Committee, its subpanels and Senate counterparts have held dozens of hearings to discuss the 2019 budget and policy priorities for each of the branches as well as a wide-ranging list of challenges facing the military, including an unrelenting readiness crisis that has resulted in a series of deadly aviation and ship crashes.

Among the recent proposals, the House's NDAA also endorses a Thornberry effort to cut 25 percent in spending from dozens of Defense Department agencies comprising the department's so-called "4th Estate."

Originally, Thornberry said his plan would eliminate seven of the agencies, but he reduced that list to the Washington Headquarters Service, which provides administrative support.

"I backed off all of them except [the Washington Headquarters Service], the biggest growth, the most redundancy," he said. "Surely, we can do this."

The House panel's NDAA appears to build on momentum to grow the size and might of the military in response to China and Russia's growing capabilities as laid out in Trump's \$686.1 billion defense budget proposed earlier this year. The proposal was poised to get a receptive response on Capitol Hill with a deal already in place to bust budget caps and a Congress invested in military improvements during an election year.

Thornberry's original NDAA proposal directed \$708.1 billion to the Pentagon, which is less than a new 2019 defense spending budget cap of \$716 billion and \$22 billion more than Trump's request.

The request for fiscal 2019, which begins Oct. 1, sought an increase of more than 15,000 active-duty troops. So far, House committee lawmakers are on board with that plan, along with a 2.6 percent military pay raise, the largest in nine years.

The provisions "will provide the military services flexibility to manage and retain quality

force by authorizing responsible end-strength increases, supporting a 2.6 (percent) pay raise, and extending bonuses and special pays," said Rep. Jackie Speier, of California, the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee subpanel on military personnel issues. It also "increases transparency for the Department of Defense."

The Pentagon's budget also requested money to build 10 ships, including three guided-missile destroyers, two Virginia-class submarines and one littoral combat ship. It also requested more than 400 new aircraft, including 77 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, 24 F/A-18E Super Hornet fighters, 60 AH-64 Apache helicopters and 68 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

The House committee added to the Pentagon request with three additional battle force ships, including one Ford-class aircraft carrier and two additional littoral combat ships.

Based on the Trump administration's Nuclear Posture Review issued earlier this year, the NDAA would also spark the Pentagon's rebuild of its nuclear infrastructure, despite warnings from Democrats that it's a costly and dangerous path.

The long-term plan to expand the nuclear arsenal could cost \$1.2 trillion.

"With all our needs within the [Defense Department] — and we heard earlier about the readiness crisis ... we could spend that \$1.2 trillion in a way that would make us much safer," said Rep. Adam Smith, of Washington, the

ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. "We should not blindly endorse the Nuclear Posture Review that was put out by the Trump administration. It's wrong. It takes us down a dangerous path."

The hearing also saw extended debate on a series of failed amendments, including a proposal to protect military personnel and their relatives from deportation.

"If you are willing to give your life for our country, our country should be willing for you to become a citizen," said Rep. Donald Norcross, D-N.J., whose daughter-in-law, while in the Army based at Fort Hood in Texas, faced a deportation threat to Mexico as a result of a paperwork mishap.

Among its other provisions, the proposed NDAA will expand its constructive service credit program, which counts advanced education, experience and training toward a servicemember's rank and grade. It also makes permanent the Career Interruption Program, which allows servicemembers to take a break from active duty.

The proposed NDAA also enhances ongoing reforms of the Military Health System and requires the defense secretary's review of the Defense Health Agency's ability to deliver mental health care services as well as research efforts relating to brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The plan also would require the Defense Department to establish a centralized oversight plan to ensure criminal data for servicemembers is reported to the FBI. The effort comes after a Texas church shooting involving a former Air Force servicemember with an unreported criminal record.

The NDAA would also require portions of reports documenting misconduct by senior leadership to be made public.

Lawmakers also expanded efforts to respond to and combat sexual misconduct, such as expediting the transfer process for sexual assault victims and requiring a new oversight plan for implementation of a new harassment prevention and response policy. For example, it could let a victim transfer between military academies.

"It's an egregious crime, and those who seek to serve on our behalf should not have to suffer harm at the hands of their own," said Rep. Niki Tsongas, D-Mass. "The fight is far from over."

The House panel's Senate counterpart is slated to start its markup process next week. It's then up to the two chambers to proceed on the date before sending the NDAA to the president's desk for his signature.

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# DOOD: Systemic problems led to Niger ambush

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
AND JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — No single failure was to blame for a botched Special Forces mission in Niger that led to the deaths of four U.S. troops at the hands of Islamic State-aligned militants, according to a Pentagon investigation.

"Systemic issues" ultimately contributed to the deaths on Oct. 4 of Staff Sgt. Bryan Black, Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Johnson and Sgt. La David Johnson when their team was ambushed by a much larger and better-gunned enemy force just outside the village of Tongo Tongo in southwestern Niger, according to an eight-page summary of the investigation into the attack officially released Thursday at the Pentagon. Their deaths sparked questions and debate about the U.S. military's missions in Africa, where troop numbers have quietly grown in recent years.

Though the summary of the report does not explicitly place blame on any single soldier or recommend specific punishments, it does call on Pentagon officials to consider disciplinary measures. It also calls for a review of Special Forces' training and operations policies for working with foreign partners.

Army Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, the U.S. Africa Command chief of staff who led the investigation, said Thursday that "three cases" were referred to U.S. Special Operations Command for action, potentially including punishment. He did not provide specific details about the cases.

The team — only on its third mission since arriving in Niger a month earlier — was sloppy in its preparations for its mission, Cloutier said. He determined they were not prepared to face a well-trained force of ISIS fighters that outnumbered them 3-to-1.

The full report, which includes some 6,300 pages of evidence collected over six months, is not expected to be released for several more months as officials determine what elements of it can be distributed publicly, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The investigation found the members of the Special Forces teams in Niger and Tongo Tongo that nation's forces to fight terrorism — had spent insufficient time training together before deployment, did not properly train with their Nigerian partners, misled higher-ups about the intention of their initial mission, are twice as likely to other missions and failed to report they needed aid to

push back the enemy until nearly an hour after the ambush started.

The report summary reveals the team of soldiers — including the men who died — fought bravely alongside their Nigerian counterparts, fending off the attack, which lasted nearly six hours, and recommends officials consider recognition for valorous acts during the engagement. Two additional Americans were wounded in the encounter and four Nigerian troops died.

"I cannot overstate the courage with which our forces fought on the fourth of October," Cloutier said. Adding later, "There will be awards for valorous actions."

The general also determined each of the four Americans killed in action died shortly after receiving wounds from small-arms fire and none were ever captured alive by enemy fighters, including Sgt. La David Johnson, whose body was not discovered for nearly two days following the skirmish after he and two Nigerian soldiers were separated from the team and killed nearly a half mile from the location where they were ambushed.

However, ISIS forces stripped all four dead American soldiers of their gear, and appear to have attempted to take at least two of their bodies from the battlefield before they fled the area, Cloutier told reporters.

Cloutier's investigation included examinations of photographs and video of the ambush, visits to the battlefield and interviews with 143 witnesses, including attack survivors who returned to the site with investigators.

On Oct. 3, the American team from Fort Bragg, N.C.'s 3rd Special Forces Group, which would eventually be ambushed, set out on an operation targeting a senior member of ISIS's affiliate in Niger known as Islamic State in the Greater Sahara. AFRICOM officials were not aware the team intended to find the ISIS leader, a mission that should have included a rehearsal of the operation, further planning and high-level approval, according to the investigation.

Instead, the team commander and his commanding officer, an unnamed captain, "inaccurately characterized the nature of the mission" as a patrol to meet with a key leader in a village, according to the report summary.

Cloutier told reporters that he concluded the team leadership did not intentionally lie to their superiors to go out on the high-risk target mission, instead he blamed a lack of attention to detail. The



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY/AP

From left, Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, 35, of Puyallup, Wash., Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, 39, of Springfield, Ohio, Sgt. La David Johnson of Miami Gardens, Fla., and Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright, 29, of Lyons, Ga., were killed in October in Niger when a joint patrol of American and Nigerian forces was ambushed by militants believed linked to Islamic State.

team had never conducted such a mission, he added.

The American-Nigerien team did not locate the ISIS leader, but they were re-tasked twice to support an intelligence-gathering mission, which they completed, before stopping in Tongo Tongo on their way back to their base to resupply the Nigerian troops and participate in an impromptu meeting with a village elder.

The team was hit by small-arms fire just before midnight, within minutes of leaving the village, according to investigators. The ambush started as a small engagement before the team was eventually overrun by a larger enemy force, they said.

Investigators could not determine whether Tongo Tongo villagers were involved in the attack, the report summary concluded.

Black and Wright, the Green Berets, and Jeremiah Johnson, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist attached to the unit, were fatally wounded about an hour into the fight as they attempted to provide cover fire while other members of the team moved south to avoid being flanked, according to the report and a timeline of the engagement constructed by investigators.

La David Johnson, a mechanic and driver attached to the special operations team, was among the troops who moved south. From the rear of a vehicle, he engaged enemy fighters with M240 machine-gun fire until running out of ammunition. He then switched to an M2010 sniper rifle. La David Johnson was last seen by American forces about 12:30 p.m., attempting to move into the vehicle's driver seat, according to the report summary.

Evidence gathered by investigators at the scene indicates La David Johnson and two Nigerian soldiers eventually fled on foot under fire and were pursued by enemy fighters. Some 450 yards from the vehicle, the two Nigerian troops were killed. Johnson made it nearly 500 yards further, taking cover behind a single "thorny tree" before he was killed, according to the Pentagon's timeline.

"He made his last stand, and he fought to the end," Cloutier said.

Headquarters first received word their troops needed help 53 minutes into the fight. About 47 minutes later, two French Mirage fighter jets conducted four shows of force, flying at tree level to intimidate the ISIS fighters, eventually convincing the enemy

to retreat, the report stated. The fighter jets did not release ammunition, because they were not certain where American forces were on the battlefield and could not contact them, according to the report.

The attacks in Niger have resulted in added scrutiny on the U.S. mission in the country, where troop deployments have surged during the past year. There are some 800 servicemembers deployed to the country, several hundred more than in years past. A \$100 million drone base in the central Niger city of Agadez also is nearly complete and will host dozens capable of reaching into neighboring Mali and Libya.

Marine Corps Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the chief of U.S. Africa Command, on Thursday told reporters that he was responsible for the problems revealed by the ambush in October.

The general said he had made adjustments to how special operators work on the continent since the deadly engagement, including adding armored vehicles to some units, increasing the amount of firepower forces carry with them, increasing the use of drones to conduct surveillance and bettering response time for aid troops who are attacked.

"We have beefed up a lot posture-wise," Waldhauser said.

Still, the deaths of the four Americans in a remote part of the Sahara Desert took many lawmakers in Washington by surprise, with some lawmakers expressing shock at the size of the U.S. mission in the country.

After Congress was briefed on the report, Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., this week called for it to be held accountable for the widespread failures of the mission and operations that he said the Pentagon does not have authority to conduct.

"I believe that the troops who were badly killed in Niger in October of 2017 were engaged in a mission that they were not authorized by law to participate in and that they were not trained to participate in. And that is a significant reason that they tragically lost their lives," Kaine told CNN on Wednesday.

In the wake of the October ambush, U.S. troops have continued to conduct joint patrols with Nigerian forces, but those missions are now subjected to deeper analysis by commanders before patrols are given approval to commence, according to the commander of

special operations units in Africa.

"The threat has been increasing since last fall and Tongo Tongo was simply an indicator of that, and we have adjusted our activities accordingly," Special Operations Command Africa commander Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks said during a visit to Niger in April. "We mitigate risk as we always do."

Commanders also have shifted the focus of the Niger mission with training efforts now dealing more with developing command and control capabilities of local militaries so they can operate more independently.

Military leaders have acknowledged the militants in and around Niger don't pose a direct threat to the United States now. But American forces are needed to prevent fragile states such as Niger from becoming future hubs for terrorists, according to Col. Brad Moses, who commanded the 3rd Special Operations Group at the time of the ambush.

"If there isn't something done to assist the countries across the Sahel region, it is going to become a very real threat," Moses told Stars and Stripes in April in Niger. "Twenty years from now they will be an existential threat if we don't assist our partner forces now."

Still, Moses' unit has been faulted for a culture of excessive risk-taking as well as poor training and complacency, which the report cited as factors in the deaths of the U.S. soldiers.

The findings in the report include recommendations from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on steps needed to improve training and chain-of-command protocols. The report did not provide specifics on the secretary's recommendations.

"Secretary Mattis concluded there are institutional and organizational issues, not isolated to this event, that must be addressed immediately by the Department of Defense," said Dana White, the top Pentagon spokesman. "... This report documents critical lessons learned for the continuing fight against violent extremist organizations around the world. As painful as the loss of our soldiers is, it is our duty to honor their sacrifice and learn from this operation in our constant effort to improve our training, tactics, techniques, procedures and operations."

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## NATION

# Scientists: Hawaii volcano's explosive eruption risk rising

By SOPHIA YAN  
AND AUDREY McAVOY  
Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — Hawaii's Kilauea volcano soon could send boulders and ash shooting out of its summit crater in the kind of explosive eruption last displayed nearly a century ago.

Scientists said Wednesday the risks of an explosive summit eruption will rise in coming weeks as magma drains down the flank of the volcano toward the area where lava started erupting from fissures in a residential neighborhood last week.

A summit explosion also could release ash, steam and sulfur dioxide gas.

Kilauea has destroyed 36 structures, including 26 homes, since it began releasing lava from vents about 25 miles east of the summit crater.

There are now 15 of the vents spread through the Leilani Estates and neighboring Lanipuna Gardens neighborhoods.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige said a geothermal energy plant near the lava outbreak was accelerating its removal of stored flammable gas as a precaution.

The Puna Geothermal Venture plant has about 50,000 gallons of pentane. Ige expected it be removed by the end of Thursday.

It would be "very, very hazardous" if a volcanic vent opened under the facility where the fuel is stored, the governor said.

The plant, which is owned by Ormat Technologies of Reno, Nev., is across a highway from where lava has been erupting.

In coming weeks, the summit crater could eject blocks up to 2 yards in diameter a little less than a mile away, the United States Geological Survey said. It also could send pebbles shooting into the air several miles away, the agency said.

Distant communities such Hilo, about 30 miles away, could get a dusting of ash.

The receding lava lake resembles conditions seen before a major summit eruption in 1924, said Tina Neal, scientist-in-charge at the USGS Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory.

That explosion killed one person and sent rocks, ash and dust into the air for 17 days.

Such an event could occur again when the summit lava lake drops so low that groundwater can flow into the conduit that feeds magma to the crater. The magma would heat the water, creating steam that would push accumulated rocks out in an explosion.

Don Swanson, a geologist with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, said the magma is likely to drop below the water table about the middle of the month. Scientists don't know how long after that an explosion could occur.

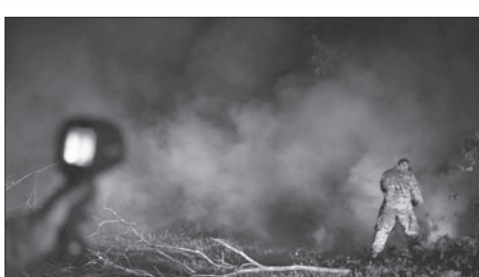
"We suspect it's a rapid process. We really don't know for certain," he told reporters at a conference



Above: Visitors watch Wednesday as steam and gas rise from Kilauea's summit crater in Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii.

Left: Sgt. 1st Class Carl Satterwaite, of the National Guard, tests air quality near volcanic gases from a lava flow in the Leilani Estates subdivision near Pahoa, Hawaii, on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY JAE C. HONG/AP



call.

No one lives in the immediate area of the summit crater, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which includes the crater and the surrounding region, announced Wednesday that it will close Friday in anticipation of the possible explosive event.

"It seems pretty safe to me right now, but they'd know best," said Cindy Wood, who was visiting from British Columbia, Canada.

"We don't know what's going on underground. Life and safety is what's most important."

Authorities previously ordered nearly 2,000 residents to leave the neighborhoods in and around the vents in the mostly rural district of Puna. But some ignored the order and stayed to watch over their property. Authorities went door-to-door in Lanipuna to get people out of their homes on Tuesday.

Police said Wednesday they arrested a man suspected of burglarizing homes in Leilani Estates. A resident saw the man leaving his house when he returned to retrieve personal belongings.

The resident and a friend took the suspect to police officers, who arrested him.

Some residents have refused to follow evacuation orders because of fears their homes will be looted.

# Texas biker accused of killing man who was shot by police

By EMILY SCHMALL  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — One of three bikers indicted on murder charges Wednesday stemming from a chaotic 2015 shooting outside a Texas restaurant is accused of killing a man who also was shot twice by police, according to ballistics evidence reviewed by The Associated Press.

The indictments against Glenn Walker and two fellow members of the Bandidos motorcycle club mark the first murder charges filed in connection with the melee that left nine bikers dead, 20 wounded and nearly 200 arrested outside a Twin Peaks restaurant in Waco.

Investigators said the shooting was sparked by rivalries between the Bandidos and Cossacks motorcycle clubs ahead of a biker meeting. Waco police monitoring the gathering said officers opened fire after fights and gunfire broke out in the parking lot.

Walker is accused of fatally shooting Richard Kirschner, a Cossacks member. An autopsy report shows Kirschner was shot three times: once in the buttocks with a pistol and twice with a rifle in the right thigh and left knee.

A pistol registered to Walker and a bullet that it fired were recovered from the back of a police vehicle at the scene, according to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Kirschner's rifle wounds were traced to a Waco SWAT officer's .22-caliber rifle during a forensic firearms analysis conducted for police, according to police records reviewed previously by the AP.

The officer who used the rifle, Michael Bucher, said during an internal investigation that he saw Kirschner chasing another man with a big chain. Bucher said he fired one round and Kirschner fell, but then fired again after he saw Kirschner get up on one knee and swing the chain. The officer said Kirschner then stayed on the ground.

Kirschner later was pronounced dead at a hospital. The autopsy report said only that Kirschner died of gunshot wounds.

Walker's attorney didn't respond to messages seeking comment Wednesday.

A grand jury in September 2016 cleared the officer, along with the two other offi-



Glenn Walker

cers who fired their weapons. The police evidence reviewed by the AP showed that two people killed during the shooting were hit only by bullets from law enforcement weapons. Two others killed were hit by bullets from Waco SWAT rifles and other firearms.

The other Bandidos members charged with murder Wednesday — Jeff Battey, a local sergeant-at-arms with the motorcycle club, and Ray Allen, the president of the Denton, Texas, chapter of the Bandidos — are accused of fatally shooting Matthew Smith, a Cossacks member who died at the scene from gunshot wounds. Battey, who is a former Marine, and Allen were seen by officers "triangulated" over Smith, and a pistol was found in front of each man, according to Waco police records.

An autopsy determined Smith suffered gunshot wounds in the abdomen and back. The firearms analysis for police ruled out police rifles.

Battey's attorney, Seth Sutton, said Wednesday that prosecutors failed to provide a "full and complete picture of the evidence" to the grand jury.

"We believe that justice will prevail for Mr. Battey and that he will be acquitted of all wrongdoing," Sutton said.

Allen's attorney, Brian Walker, said Allen was acting in self-defense.

He said that when Allen and other Bandidos pulled into the parking lot, "they heard shots ringing out and they had no clue what was taking place. All of a sudden, this young guy comes around the corner and starts shooting at them," Brian Walker said Allen shot back.

Glenn Walker, Battey and Allen also face rioting charges. More than 20 other bikers were re-indicted on new charges Wednesday ranging from rioting to tampering with evidence. The lesser charges came just eight days before the statute of limitations runs out on those crimes — and a day after more than 60 cases were dropped.

The county's district attorney, Abel Reyna, said in a statement Wednesday that the indictments were the result of a review of "numerous videos and other evidence."

Surveillance footage showed numerous bikers running from the scene and ducking for cover after gunshots rang out. A smaller number could be seen pointing and firing weapons or throwing punches.

Law enforcement officers recovered dozens of firearms, knives and other weapons from the restaurant and the adjacent parking lot.

## NATION



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Immigration advocates hold a rally on Capitol Hill on Jan. 23.

## Texas suit could speed DACA's path to Supreme Court

By JESSICA GRESKO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three judges have ordered the Trump administration to continue a program that has shielded hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation. Now, a lawsuit filed last week in Texas seeks to shut down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and could create a legal clash that could speed the issue's path to the Supreme Court.

President Donald Trump's decision in September to phase out the Obama-era program, called DACA, resulted in protests and a failed congressional effort to salvage it. Experts say it's a matter of when, not if, the Supreme Court will rule on the program. It could be the second opportunity for the high court to weigh in on a high-profile decision of the president's, with a ruling on Trump's travel ban expected before the end of June.

Josh Blackman, a professor at South Texas College of Law Houston, said the Texas lawsuit filed May 1 tees up "a fast pass to the Supreme Court."

If Texas and six other states persuade a judge to issue a nationwide order barring the government from continuing DACA, that decision could conflict with existing judges' orders telling the government it must continue the program partially. That's the kind of conflict the Supreme Court generally steps in to address.

The high court already has finished hearing arguments ahead of its summer break at the end of June, and it's rare for the court to hear arguments again before October. But if judges issue conflicting orders on what the government must do with DACA, the court might be asked to make an interim, procedural decision, said Stephen Yale-Loehr, who teaches immigration law at Cornell University's law school.

The Texas lawsuit "creates even more uncertainty in what is

going to happen," he said.

DACA, created in 2012, has provided protection from deportation and work permits for about 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. as children and stayed illegally. A person enrolled in the program gets protection from deportation that lasts two years and can be renewed.

Judges in California and New York have ruled that the Trump administration must allow current DACA participants to renew their enrollments, but the government doesn't have to process new applications. A ruling by a judge in the District of Columbia would require the government also to process new applications but it has been put on hold until late July.

While those lawsuits challenged Trump's decision to wind down DACA, the lawsuit filed by Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia aims to end it. The states argue the creation of the program was an unlawful overreach by President Barack Obama, a conclusion the Trump administration agrees with.

And the states filed the case in a way to put it before a potentially sympathetic judge, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Brownsville, Texas.

Hanen criticized the Obama administration for lax enforcement of immigration laws. And in 2015 he ruled against an expansion of DACA by Obama as well as a program that would have protected the parents of children who are in the country legally.

His ruling blocking the programs was upheld by an appeals court. The Supreme Court, short a member after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, was divided 4-4 on the case in 2016, leaving the lower court's ruling in place.

University of Texas law professor Stephen Vladeck said the Texas case "increases the likelihood of conflicting orders to the government and conflicting substantive conclusions about DACA's legality."

# From afar, McCain raises his voice against torture

By LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the Senate began considering Gina Haspel's nomination to head the CIA, one voice was noticeably missing.

Republican Sen. John McCain, 81, remained at home in Arizona battling brain cancer as Wednesday's debate turned to the past use of enhanced interrogation techniques, now banned, that President Donald Trump has suggested perhaps should return.

Haspel, the CIA's acting director and a career intelligence officer, faced grilling about her role overseeing some CIA operations in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Some senators asked about her morals. Haspel told them she doesn't believe torture works.

The absence of McCain, a Navy pilot who was tortured in captivity during the Vietnam War, hung



Haspel

over the conversation. What he would have to say about Haspel mattered. But not until Washington had all but finished for the evening did he finally weigh in.

"I believe Gina Haspel is a patriot who loves our country and has devoted her professional life to its service and defense," he said in a statement. "However, Ms. Haspel's role in overseeing the use of torture by Americans is disturbing. Her refusal to acknowledge torture's immorality is disqualifying."

He added, "The Senate should exercise its duty of advice and consent and reject this nomination."

McCain's decision will certainly influence the debate, but it may not block Haspel's confirmation.

The senator was diagnosed in

July with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. McCain left Washington in December and hasn't yet been able to return.

The GOP's narrow hold on the Senate, 51-49, has been further slimmed with McCain's absence. But there might not be a repeat of that dramatic moment last summer when he returned to Washington to cast the deciding "no" vote that shelved the GOP's plan to undo the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare.

Haspel appears to be gaining support. At least one Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, announced he would vote in her favor. Vice President Mike Pence can be relied on to break a tie. And McCain's close friend and longtime ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has said he expects Haspel will be confirmed.

McCain led efforts during the George W. Bush administration to end the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques.

## Jury selection to begin in case related to Mo. governor's affair

By JIM SALTER  
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The verdict in the invasion-of-privacy case against Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens could come down to the technical workings of the iPhone, the definition of "transmission" and the whereabouts of a photo that may or may not exist.

Jury selection in the felony case against the Republican former Navy SEAL was expected to start Thursday and to last at least two days. Testimony is scheduled to begin Monday.

Greitens, 44, is accused of taking an unauthorized photograph of a blindfolded and partially naked woman while she was bound to exercise rings in his basement in 2015, before he was elected. The woman, a hairdresser with whom Greitens has admitted having an affair, told investigators she saw a flash through the blindfold and heard what sounded like a photo being taken.

Greitens is accused of telling her, "You're never going to mention my name; otherwise there will be pictures of (you) everywhere."

The woman, whose name has not been released, said she became upset and that Greitens told her he deleted the picture. Pros-

ecutors acknowledged in court Monday that they have not found such a photo. Greitens repeatedly has declined to say if he took a picture.

The penalty for first-degree invasion of privacy in Missouri is up to four years in prison.

In addition to the invasion-of-privacy case, Greitens faces separate criminal charges of misusing a charity donor list for political purposes. The Legislature will convene in special session this month to consider impeachment.

Beyond the question of whether the photo exists are some highly technical issues that could be pivotal: What happens to an iPhone picture if it's deleted? Does it go to the cloud, and if so, can it be retrieved? And what, exactly, constitutes transmission of a photo?

The last question is important because under Missouri law, simply taking an unauthorized photo of someone in a full or partial state of nudity is a misdemeanor, punishable by a year in behind bars. It is a felony carrying up to four years in prison if the image is distributed to someone else or if a person "transmits the image in a manner that allows access to that image via computer."

There is no evidence Greitens shared or posted any photo. At Monday's court hearing, prosecutor Robert Steele said authorities planned to call an expert who would explain that "transmission from the pixels to the CPU, or the memory card, is a transmission." The court said that any cellphone photo involves

transmission.

Defense attorney Michelle Nasser, at the hearing, called that definition "convoluted and bizarre."

"You Honor, that is not at all what is meant in the statute," Nasser told Judge Rex Burlinson, who ruled against allowing the expert witness, saying the jury will decide what constitutes transmission.

Michelle Richardson, of the Washington-based Center for Democracy and Technology suggested in an interview that the prosecutors' interpretation differs from what the drafters of the law intended.

"It seems to me if they wanted to say all images taken on connected devices were covered, they could have just said that," Richardson said.

Greitens was indicted in February, and prosecutors initially asked that the trial begin in the fall, citing the need to gather more evidence. The key missing piece of evidence was, and remains, the reputed photo.

On Tuesday, a forensics examiner was at the courthouse, extracting data from Greitens' phone. Richardson said that even if a photo is deleted, it isn't erased from the phone's memory and can be retrieved.

Many phones also are set to automatically back up photos to the cloud, storing data on the internet through places like Apple's iCloud or Google Photos. Phone users can opt out of storing data to the cloud, but many don't.



## NATION

# Calif. flower town wrestles with odor amid shift to pot

By AMY TAXIN  
Associated Press

CARPINTERIA, Calif. — This picturesque coastal town cradled by mountains and sandy shores is a scene out of a Southern California postcard. Residents of Carpinteria say they feel lucky to live in what they consider a slice of paradise.

But change is in the air. And sometimes, they say, it stinks.

That's because marijuana has become a new crop of choice in the farmlands surrounding this tight-knit community of 14,000, which has long helped fuel the U.S. cut flower industry.

Residents say a thick, skunk-like odor from the marijuana plants settles over the valley in the evenings and before dawn. To keep out the stench, they have tried stuffing pillows under doors, lighting incense and shutting windows, a reluctant choice because it also keeps out the cool ocean breezes that are part of the town's allure.

"We don't want a marijuana smell," said Xave Saragosa, 73, a retired sheriff's deputy who was born and raised in the town and lives near a greenhouse that grows marijuana. "We want fresh air."

Saragosa said the odor pervades his hillside home at night and keeps his wife up coughing.

Carpinteria, about 85 miles from Los Angeles, is in the southeastern corner of Santa Barbara County, a tourist area famous for its beaches, wine and temperate climate. It's also becoming known as a haven for cannabis growers.

The county issued the largest number of marijuana cultivation licenses in California since broad legalization arrived Jan. 1 — about 800, according to state data compiled by The Associated Press. Two-thirds of them are in Carpinteria and Lompoc, a larger agricultural city about an hour's drive to the northwest.

"Virtually all of Carpinteria's

licenses are for small, "mixed-light" facilities, which essentially means greenhouses.

The result is a large number of licenses but small total acreage. Only about 200 acres of the county's farmland are devoted to marijuana, compared with tens of thousands sown with strawberries and vegetables, said Dennis Bozanich, who oversees the county's marijuana planning.

The area's greenhouses have their roots in Carpinteria's cut flower industry, which was sapped after the U.S. government granted trade preferences to South American countries in the 1990s to encourage their farmers to grow flowers instead of coca, the plant used to make cocaine.

In an ironic twist, some California flower growers weary of import competition have started trying to grow cannabis, a plant that, like coca, is deemed illicit by the federal government. Others have sold their greenhouses to marijuana investors.

"We have literally no carnation production in the United States any longer because South America grows them so cheaply," said Kasey Cronquist, chief executive of the California Cut Flower Commission. "Farmers had to move crops, and that is what we have seen happen over time — they've gone to crops that are more valuable or more difficult for Ecuador and Colombia to ship."

Domestic cut flower growers saw their share of the U.S. market drop to 27 percent in 2015 from 58 percent in 1991. Sales of imported cut flowers grew to more than \$1 billion during the same period, according to data compiled by the commission.

Greenhouses that once produced flowers are seen as ideal for marijuana. In Carpinteria's climate, the greenhouses heat and cool easily and inexpensively, and the plants thrive. It takes only about three months to grow cannabis in pots of shredded coconut husks, so farmers can get



PHOTOS BY JAC C. HONE/AP

A worker drives a cart past cannabis plants in a greenhouse at Glass House Farms in Carpinteria, Calif., on April 12.



A man buys locally grown flowers April 12 at a farmers' market in Carpinteria. Marijuana has become the new crop of choice in a place that helped fuel the U.S. cut flower industry.

multiple harvests each year.

In the hills of the so-called Emerald Triangle of Northern California, where most of the state's pot is grown, there is a single harvest each year.

Some farmers see cannabis as a plant that can help preserve the area's farming culture, said Mollie Culver, a consultant for the Cannabis Business Council of Santa Barbara County. Many growers live locally and welcomed the county's recently crafted regulations requiring odor abatement, she said.

"Santa Barbara isn't like cannabis run amok," said Jared Fick-

er, a partner at advocacy group California Strategies who consults with local cannabis growers. "It is actually the most compliant market we've seen in the state."

Some residents said the stench has decreased in recent months as some growers installed systems aimed at reducing the smells. Others said the problem persists.

The county passed rules in February requiring growers to submit odor abatement plans and to designate a representative to handle complaints. They are expected to take effect in some county areas this year and in Carpinteria following a review by

state coastal regulators.

Californians voted to legalize marijuana in 2016, but counties and cities have a say on whether they allow cannabis production, distribution or sales.

Even before the ballot measure, Santa Barbara County recognized a number of farmers were growing marijuana to supply the state's medical market. So officials started looking at establishing odor, security and other rules.

All of the county's licenses are to grow medical marijuana, Bozanich said, though the state allows some crossover into the adult market.

In Carpinteria, some residents worry property values will fall if the town keeps reeking of pot. They hope the smell will fade as more growers install odor control systems and those who don't are shut down.

Toni Stuart, 80, a retired Episcopal priest, said the odor doesn't creep into the area near the beach where she lives, but she worries about the community changing.

"I would not like Carpinteria to be the 'cannabis capital' of Southern California," she said. "I like it the way it is. It's a very quiet, unpretentious beach town."

"If people want to grow cannabis instead of flowers or avocados or macadamia nuts, I suppose that's their right. But they've got to think about their neighbors."

## Audit: Online school inflated time students spent learning

By JULIE CARR SMYTH  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio's then-largest online charter school may have broken the law by withholding information used in calculating payments and inflated the amount of time students spent learning by not deducting the time they were inactive online, the state auditor said Thursday.

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow also doesn't document whether students were learning during times the company claimed for payment, according to the re-

port from Republican Auditor David Yost.

"ECOT officials had the ability to provide honest, accurate information to the state and they chose not to," Yost said. "By withholding information, ECOT misled state regulators at the Department of Education, and ECOT was paid based on that information."

Yost said that could rise to a criminal act and he referred his findings to state and federal prosecutors for review.

A message left with an attorney representing ECOT wasn't returned immediately. The school, which closed in January,

previously has alleged the state engaged in a conspiracy to show the school had been overpaid.

The audit also said private affiliates should repay \$250,000 in taxpayer money it used for television ads attacking a state effort to recoup funding due to overstated attendance figures.

The long-awaited review also incorporated input from a former ECOT technology employee who told The Associated Press that the now-shuttered e-school used software to intentionally inflate attendance figures tied to its state funding.

ECOT's former spokesman has dismissed those allegations as mostly "made up."

Yost's office had delayed the audit's release as it obtained subpoenas for computer data from ECOT to preserve information should the dispute over \$80 million in state overpayments be followed by a criminal case.

The Education Department previously found that the school significantly overreported its number of full-time-equivalent students and owed the state \$60 million for the 2015-16 school year. Another \$19 million penalty was assessed for 2016-17.

## NATION

# House bill would revive Nev. nuclear waste dump

By MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday approved a bill to revive the mothballed nuclear waste dump at Nevada's Yucca Mountain despite opposition from home-state lawmakers.

Supporters say the bill would help solve a nuclear waste storage problem that has festered for more than three decades. More than 80,000 metric tons of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants sit idle in 121 communities across 39 states.

The bill would direct the Energy Department to continue a licensing process for Yucca Mountain while also moving forward with a separate plan for a temporary storage site in New Mexico or Texas.

The House approved the bill, 340-72, sending the measure to the Senate, where Nevada's two senators have vowed to block it.

"The House can vote all they want to revive #YuccaMountain, but let's be clear — any bill that would turn Nevadans' backyards into a nuclear waste dump is dead on arrival," Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., tweeted. "Yucca will never be anything more than a hole in the ground."

But House members from both parties outside Nevada said it was past time for the federal government to fulfill its obligation to permanently dispose of spent nuclear fuel now sitting in dozens of states, near lakes, rivers and communities.

"People are ready to do something rather than nothing," said

Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., the bill's chief sponsor.

President Donald Trump's administration has proposed reviving the long-stalled Yucca project 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, but the plan faces bipartisan opposition from the state's governor and congressional delegation.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry has said the U.S. has a "moral obligation" to find a long-term solution to store spent fuel from its commercial nuclear fleet. Trump's budget proposes \$120 million to revive the Yucca project.

Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, a Republican who is locked in a close race for re-election, blasted the vote as "an exercise in futility."

Heller vowed: "Under my watch, I will not let one more hard-earned taxpayer dollar go toward this



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**The House is moving to approve a bill to revive the mothballed nuclear waste dump at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.**

failed project — just as I have in the past. Yucca Mountain is dead, it is that simple."

Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen, Heller's likely opponent in the general election, also opposes use of Yucca Mountain for nuclear waste. She called Yucca a "failed project" and a "complete waste of time and taxpayer money."

While the fight over Yucca re-

sumes, lawmakers say they hope to make progress on a plan to temporarily house tons of spent fuel that have been piling up at nuclear reactors around the country. Private companies have proposed state-of-the-art, underground facilities in remote areas of west Texas and southeastern New Mexico to store nuclear waste for up to 40 years.

## Afghan detained despite helping US has been freed

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — An Afghan man detained in New Jersey for more than a year despite having a special visa for people who helped the United States has been released.

The man worked for five years in dining services for the U.S. Armed Forces and the U.S. Embassy Forces, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. He held a visa reserved for Afghan citizens who worked for the American government or its contractors.

He was released Tuesday night.

The ACLU said the man's work for the U.S. government made

him the target of violent attacks and intimidation by the Taliban and that he was vetted extensively in Afghanistan before receiving a special visa sponsored by a retired U.S. Army sergeant.

The man, whose full name hasn't been released because of safety issues, was detained at Newark Liberty International Airport in March 2017 and held at a federal facility in New Jersey during deportation proceedings.

A federal judge in Newark cleared the way for his deportation last year, ruling that he was unlikely to succeed in his case against the government because his visa already was revoked. But a federal appeals court blocked that decision.

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## WORLD

# Israel hits Iranian targets in Syria

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and SARAH EL DEEB  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military on Thursday said it attacked nearly all of Iran's military installations in neighboring Syria in response to an Iranian rocket barrage on Israeli positions in the occupied Golan Heights in the most serious military confrontation between the two bitter enemies to date.

Israel said the targets of the strikes, its largest in Syria since the 1973 war, included weapons storage, logistics sites and intelligence centers used by elite Iranian forces in Syria. It also said it destroyed several Syrian air-defense systems after coming under heavy fire and that none of its warplanes was hit.

Iranian media described the attacks as "unprecedented" but there was no official Iranian comment on Israel's claims.

Israel has acknowledged carrying out more than 100 airstrikes in neighboring Syria since the civil war erupted in 2011, most believed to be aimed at suspected Iranian weapons shipments bound for the Hezbollah militant group.

But in the past few weeks, Israel has shifted to a more direct and public confrontation with Iran, striking at Iranian bases, weapons depots and rocket launchers across Syria and killing Iranian troops. Israel accuses Tehran of seeking to establish a foothold on its doorstep. Iran has vowed to retaliate.

Reflecting the scope of the overnight attacks, Russia's military said 28 Israeli jets were involved, striking at several Iranian and government sites in Syria with 70 missiles. It said half of the missiles were shot down.

Speaking at the Herzliya Conference, an annual security gathering north of Tel Aviv, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said

Israel would respond fiercely to any further Iranian actions.

"We will not let Iran turn Syria into a forward base against Israel," he said. "We, of course, struck almost all the Iranian infrastructure in Syria, and they need to remember this arrogance of theirs. If we get rain, they'll get a flood. I hope that we ended this chapter and that everyone understood."

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which closely monitors the civil war through sources inside Syria, said the overnight Israeli attacks struck several military posts for Syrian troops and Iran-backed militias near the capital, Damascus, in central Syria and in southern Syria. The Observatory said the attacks killed 23 fighters, including five Syrian soldiers. It said it was not immediately clear if Iranians were among those killed.

An Iranian state television presenter announced the Israeli strikes, sourcing the information to Syria's state-run SANA news agency. The broadcaster described the Israeli attack as "unprecedented" since the 1967 Mideast war.

Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 war, annexing it in 1981 in a move not recognized internationally. In 1974, Israel and Syria reached a cease-fire and a disengagement deal that froze the conflict lines with the plateau in Israeli hands.

Damascus shook with sounds of explosions just before dawn, and firing by Syrian air defenses over the city was heard for more than five hours. Syria's state news agency, SANA, said Israeli missiles hit air-defense positions, radar stations and a weapons warehouse but claimed most incoming rockets were intercepted.

Russia sent forces to Syria to back President Bashar Assad in 2015. But Israel and Russia have maintained close communications to prevent their air forces from coming into conflict. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveled to Moscow on Wednesday to meet with President Vladimir Putin to discuss military coordination in Syria.

Israel said early Thursday that Iran's Quds Force fired 20 rockets at Israeli front-line military positions in the Golan Heights. Lt. Col. Jonathan Conriscus, a military spokesman, said four of the rockets were intercepted while the others fell short of their targets. The incoming attack set off air raid sirens in the Golan.

Conriscus said Israel was not looking to escalate the situation but that troops will continue to be on "very high alert."

"Should there be another Iranian attack, we will be prepared for it," he said.

It is believed to be the first time in decades that such firepower from Syria has been directed at Israeli forces in the Golan Heights.

Iran's ability to hit back further could be limited. Its resources in Syria pale in comparison with the high-tech Israeli military, and it also could be wary of military entanglement at a time when it is trying to salvage the international nuclear deal.

Iran has sent thousands of troops to back Assad, and Israel fears that as the fighting nears an end, Iran and tens of thousands of Shiite militiamen will turn their focus to Israel.

Earlier this week, Syrian state media said Israel struck a military outpost near Damascus. The Observatory said the missiles targeted depots and rocket launchers that likely belonged to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard, killing at least 15 people, eight of them Iranians.

## Woman stoned to death by al-Shabab in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabab says it has stoned to death a woman accused of marrying 11 men.

The al-Qaida-linked group's radio arm, Andalus, reported that the stoning was carried out Wednesday after an ad hoc al-Shabab court convicted the woman in Sablale town in Lower Shabelle region.

The report says masked men stoned Shukri Abdullahi Warsame, 30, to death in a public square.

The self-proclaimed judge said the woman had confessed to having secretly married 11 men in a row without seeking divorces.

Al-Shabab has been fighting for years to impose a strict version of Islam in the long-chaotic Horn of Africa nation.

The group often executes suspected spies and people accused of adultery after convictions that human rights groups say lack the proper judiciary process.

## Berlin court backs ban on teacher's headscarf

BERLIN — A Berlin court has ruled that a law prohibiting a Muslim teacher from wearing a headscarf in a public school doesn't violate her constitutional right to religious freedom.

The dpa news agency reported Wednesday that the Berlin labor court ruled that the city-state's so-called neutrality law banning all religious clothing for public teachers, police officers and judicial employees wasn't unconstitutional.

It noted that the teacher had agreed to follow the neutrality law when she was hired.

Such bans are decided on a state level in Germany, and in 2015 the Federal Constitutional Court on appeal struck down a law in North Rhine-Westphalia that forbade headscarves but exempted "Christian and Western educational and cultural values or traditions" from its ban.

The Berlin court ruling can be appealed.

## Liquid chocolate spills onto Polish highway

WARSAW, Poland — A tractor-trailer overturned on a Polish highway, spilling tons of liquid chocolate, which is solidifying into a huge, sticky mess.

The private broadcaster TVN24 showed images of an overturned truck surrounded by brown chocolate covering six lanes on the A2 motorway, blocking traffic in both directions.

Rescue officials said the liquid chocolate was solidifying as it cooled and would require large amounts of hot water to clear away.

Senior brigadier Bogdan Kowalski, with the fire brigade of Slupca, a town in western Poland, said, "The cooling chocolate is worse than snow."

TVN24 reported from the site of the accident that the driver was taken to a hospital with a broken arm. The accident occurred in the morning when there was little traffic, and nobody else was hurt.

From The Associated Press

# Officials: At least 41 killed as dam bursts in Kenya

By TOM ODUKA  
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — A dam burst its banks in Kenya's Rift Valley, killing at least 41 people and forcing hundreds from their homes, officials said Thursday. At least 20 of the dead were children, police said.

Water burst through the banks of the Patel Dam in Solai, Nakuru county, on Wednesday night, sweeping away hundreds of homes, including those on the expansive Nyakinyua estate that borders the reservoir.

"Many people are missing. It is a disaster," said Rongai town police chief Joseph Kiboko.

Nearly 170 people have died since March from floods caused by seasonal rains, according to Kenyan authorities.

The floods hit as the East African nation was recovering from a severe drought that affected half of the country.

Almost an entire village was swept away by silt and water from the burst dam, said Gideon Kibunya, the county police chief in charge of criminal investigations. Officials said homes over a radius of nearly 1.2 miles were submerged.

Nearly 40 people were rescued from the mud and were taken to hospitals Thursday morning in operations by Kenya Red Cross and Nakuru County disaster management teams.



Members of the National Youth Service carry away a dead boy early Thursday near Solai, in Kenya's Rift Valley, after water burst through the banks of the Patel Dam late Wednesday, killing dozens.

The area has seven dams used by a commercial farm, said Keffa Mageni, an official with an advocacy group that helps to resettle displaced people. With the heavy seasonal rains, the dams do not have an outlet, he said.

"There are two other dams which are leaking," said resident

Stephen Nganga. He asked the government to investigate them for the residents' safety.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi visited the scene Thursday and said the government had launched investigations to determine the stability of the

six other dams.

More than 225,000 people in Kenya have been displaced from their homes since March, according to the government. Military helicopters and personnel in the past week have been deployed to rescue people marooned by the flooding.





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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Video shows girl, 11, escaping carjacking

**IL** AURORA — Surveillance video shows an 11-year-old girl jumping out of a carjacked SUV in suburban Chicago as her father tries to stop a car driven by the carjacker's accomplice.

The carjacking took place early May 4 in Aurora at a gas station. In the video, the girl is seen jumping out of the SUV and rolling on the ground. Her father leaps onto the hood of the accomplice's car as both vehicles speed away. Police say the girl and her father were not hurt.

An Illinois State Police trooper spotted the stolen SUV less than an hour later on Interstate 290 and a 20-year-old Chicago man was arrested following a brief chase. His accomplice is being sought.

## Goats at school help stressed students

**ME** ORONO — The University of Maine deployed a herd of goats to help students get through a stressful final season during the end of the semester.

There was a line of students waiting this week to get up close with the goats.

WABI-TV reported the goal is for the goats to cheer up students who may be dealing with stress.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Brittny Smith said the animals are important in helping students find an outlet for mental health exercises.

## Geyser erupts for 4th time in 7 weeks

**WY** YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — The world's largest active geyser has erupted four times in seven weeks, a spate of activity that has geophysicists excited about the Yellowstone National Park water feature.

The Steamboat Geyser, which can shoot water up to 300 feet high, erupted May 4 and continued to spew water into Monday.

Steamboat has gone dormant for as long as nine years. Its first eruption since 2014 occurred in mid-March, followed by two other eruptions in April.

Geophysicist Bob Smith told the Jackson Hole News & Guide that there is no consensus for what's behind the geyser's unusual activity.

## Suspect arrested in theft of woman's SUV, dog

**MA** BOSTON — Police arrested a man they said stole an SUV from outside a Boston convenience store with the owner's beloved dog inside.

Police said David Brady, 50, was caught Monday following a foot chase.

Rosa Nese said she had visited her mother's grave Monday morning when she stopped at an East Boston convenience store. She saw her vehicle running, with the windows cracked and air conditioning on because her 8-year-

## THE CENSUS

# \$800K

The value of dimes a semi was hauling when it crashed into a guard rail on an interstate northeast of Las Vegas on Tuesday. The tractor trailer was hauling the dimes under a contract with the U.S. Treasury Department when it dumped the load and several bags split open, spilling thousands of coins on the side of the road. State troopers established a crime scene so a recovery team could collect the money.



## Getting a lift

**Above:** Rescuers give a horse named Misty water while she remained trapped in a trench on a hillside in Shadow Hills, Calif., on Tuesday. **Right:** Misty is airlifted to safety by a Los Angeles Fire Department helicopter. The horse was unharmed in the ordeal, which lasted several hours.

PHOTOS BY DAVID CRANE, LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS/AP



old yellow Labrador retriever, Chief, was in the back. When she came out minutes later, the SUV was gone.

The vehicle and an unharmed Chief were recovered at an Everett cemetery on Monday.

## Store manager accused of taking lottery tickets

**NC** ASHEVILLE — Authorities accused a manager at a North Carolina grocery store of stealing more than a half-million dollars' worth of lottery tickets.

Local news outlets report a warrant filed with the Buncombe County Magistrate's Office said the customer service manager stole tickets from an Ingles store in Asheville for nearly two years.

The search warrant said the manager was fired from the job in March after admitting to Ingles in a handwritten statement to activating and taking lottery packs out of the store.

The warrant said members of the manager's family were named as co-conspirators for validating and cashing the tickets.

## Police: Armored truck robbed in school lot

**MI** TROY — An elementary school in suburban Detroit was placed on lockdown after an armored truck was robbed while stopped in a parking lot outside the building.

Police said two suspects approached the truck about 10:45 a.m. Tuesday at Wattles Elementary School in Troy. WXYZ-TV reported that the truck was on a routine stop at the school.

Pepper spray was used on one of the armored truck company's employees before the suspects fled with the contents of the vehicle.

## Sacred war pipe being returned to Sioux

**MN** WORTHINGTON — A clay pipe linked to the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and considered sacred by Native Americans in Minnesota is being returned to the Sioux people after being sold at auction. The Lower Sioux Indian Community unsuccessfully tried to

stop the sale. Minnesota Public Radio reported the pipe was auctioned in Boston on Saturday for \$40,000, nearly twice its estimated value.

The buyer is remaining anonymous. But Prairie Island Tribal Council President Shelley Buck said the buyer wished to return the relic, and that's being arranged.

The pipe was a peace offering for a soldier from Sioux Chief White Dog, one of 38 Sioux hanged in Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862, for alleged war crimes.

## Man injured when elevator carriage drops

**DE** WILMINGTON — Firefighters in Delaware said a man was injured when an elevator he was riding in dropped.

News outlets reported firefighters were dispatched to a downtown Wilmington office building Monday morning for a report of an elevator falling an unknown number of floors.

Firefighters determined one passenger was in the elevator and that it fell about 6 to 8 feet. Crews

secured power to the elevator carriage, which was stopped between the first floor and the basement.

The man, who is in his late 50s, was taken to a hospital after being freed from the carriage.

## Dinosaur tracks at park thrown into lake

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Officials said visitors at a Utah state park have been dislodging dinosaur tracks imprinted in sandstone and throwing the pieces into a nearby lake.

Red Fleet State Park Manager Josh Hansen said that the site lined with hundreds of the prehistoric raptor tracks has been heavily damaged the past six months.

Utah Division of State Parks spokesman Devan Chavez said his conservative estimate is that at least 10 of the larger, more visible footprints, which range from 3 to 17 inches, disappeared in the past six months.

The park is considering sending a diving team to recover what it can from the lakebed.

From wire reports

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## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Iran sanctions could cost US, European companies

By DAVID KOENIG  
AND ANGELA CHARLTON  
Associated Press

European and American companies will likely lose billions of dollars in commercial deals canceled and a major new export market undercut by the U.S. decision to reimpose sanctions on Iran.

President Donald Trump's decision will likely most hurt aircraft makers, oil companies and auto manufacturers. The final impact, however, remains uncertain because of possible exemptions for some companies and even new negotiations on a revised Iran nuclear agreement, experts say.

Since the Iran nuclear accord was struck in 2015, it has been mostly European companies that moved back in to sign deals with Iran. Europe traditionally has had closer business and diplomatic ties than the U.S., where the legacy lingers from the seizure of hostages at the American Embassy in Tehran nearly 40 years ago.

The leaders of Britain, France and Germany tried but failed to persuade Trump to stick with the deal. The reaction from some in Europe was bitter.

Carl Bildt, the former prime minister of Sweden who is now co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, complained

that new sanctions "are hardly hitting any U.S. companies but aim primarily at European ones." Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Union's executive body, said the U.S. "no longer wants to cooperate with other parts of the world" and should be supplanted by the EU on the international stage.

Trump fulfilled a campaign promise by announcing that he will withdraw the U.S. from the nuclear deal. As a consequence, companies worldwide must stop doing business with Iran or risk U.S. fines or other punishment.

U.S. sanctions bar U.S. banks and companies from doing business with Iran. The sanctions also limit foreign companies from dealing with Iran by prohibiting them from using American banks in their operations if they do not sever links with Iran.

Aircraft manufacturers stand to be big losers, with the pain shared between Chicago-based Boeing and Europe's Airbus. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the companies' existing licenses to sell planes to Iran would be invalidated. Airbus falls under U.S. rules because its planes include U.S.-made components.

Airbus has already delivered three planes out of a 100-jet order placed in December 2016 by Iran's national carrier, Iran Air.

The planes are worth around \$19 billion at list prices.

Boeing later announced deals with Iran Air and Aseman Airlines totaling 110 planes said to be worth \$20 billion. However, list prices are routinely exaggerated, and aviation consultancy Avitas valued the deals at \$9.5 billion, given numerous discounts.

The aircraft makers will avoid serious damage. The Iranian deals represented a blip in Boeing's business. Boeing never added the planes to its backlog — and if it had, they would have represented less than 2 percent of its \$3,800 orders.

Boeing prepared investors for the setback. CEO Dennis Muilenburg said last month that losing the Iranian sales wouldn't slow down production.

"Airbus booked the orders and started delivering planes. Boeing played it safe and did neither, which may have been smart," said Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with airline-industry consultant Teal Group near Washington. He also said that Iran's demand for new planes was vastly overstated all along.

In the long term, however, "Iran is the big hope of aviation manufacturers" because of its large population — about 80 million — and middle class, its oil assets, and an aging aircraft fleet

in need of upgrades, said Adam Pilarski, an Avitas analyst.

The U.S. says the sanctions will also sharply curtail sales of oil by Iran, the world's fifth-largest oil producer. There will be a 180-day period for countries to wrap up existing contracts and achieve "significant reduction" in their purchases of Iranian crude.

French oil company Total SA has been the most aggressive Western oil company to move back into Iran, signing a \$5 billion, 20-year agreement there in July. A Chinese oil company also has a deal to develop the country's massive South Pars offshore natural gas field. Total did not respond to requests for comment.

France's Total, Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch Shell and Italy's Eni were more active in Iran than U.S. companies, which were still limited by other sanctions unrelated to Iran's nuclear program, including a trade embargo.

The price of oil rose sharply on Wednesday to its highest since 2014 on expectations that the new sanctions will crimp Iranian exports. Brent crude, the standard for pricing international oil, rose \$2.11, or 2.8 percent, to \$76.96 a barrel in London. Benchmark U.S. crude gained \$2, or 2.9 percent, to \$71.06 a barrel in New York, the highest level since late 2014.

Analysts estimate the reimpo-

sition of sanctions could reduce Iran's exports by between 200,000 and 600,000 barrels per day. Oil prices have been rising as a worldwide glut of crude is burned off by strong global demand and limits on drilling by Saudi Arabia and other major producers.

Saudi Arabia immediately pledged to help offset the loss of Iranian crude, saying it "remains committed to supporting the stability of oil markets, benefiting producers and consumers alike." Analysts also expect that U.S. companies will respond to higher prices by drilling more.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 11)	\$1.2174
Dollar buys (May 11)	69.8214
British pound (May 11)	\$1.39
Japanese yen (May 11)	106.00
South Korean won (May 11)	1,049.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.3498
Canada (Dollar)	1.2785
China (Yuan)	6.3450
Denmark (Krone)	6.2527
Egypt (Pound)	17.7809
Euro	\$1.1914/0.8393
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8496
Hungary (Forint)	263.85
Israel (Shekel)	3.5752
Japan (Yen)	109.52
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3017
Norway (Krone)	8.0006
Philippines (Peso)	52.00
Poland (Zloty)	3.56
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3395
South Korea (Won)	1,068.03
Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollar)	1.0021
Thailand (Baht)	31.38
Turkey (New Lira)	4.2434

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	0.69
3-month bill	1.88
30-year bond	3.12

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.134	\$3.408	\$3.643	\$3.460
Change in price	-0.1 cents	+0.2 cents	+0.1 cents	+1.4 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.729	\$3.875	\$3.813
Change in price	--	-1.2 cents	-0.2 cents	-1.6 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.353	\$3.588	\$3.405
Change in price	--	+0.2 cents	+0.1 cents	+1.4 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.586	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.1 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.124	\$3.427	\$3.382
Change in price	--	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	--	--	\$3.464	\$3.281
Change in price	--	--	+0.1 cents	+1.4 cents
Italy	--	\$4.050	--	\$4.088
Change in price	--	No change	--	No change

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.389	--	\$3.209
Change in price	--	No change	--	+2.0 cents
Okunawa	--	\$2.879	--	\$3.209
Change in price	--	No change	--	+2.0 cents
South Korea	--	\$2.969	\$3.189	\$3.419
Change in price	--	-1.0 cents	No change	+1.0 cents
Guam	--	\$2.909**	\$3.189	\$3.419
Change in price	--	No change	+1.0 cents	No change

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of May 12-18

### MARKET WATCH

May 9, 2018	
Dow Jones Industrials	182.33
	24,542.54
Nasdaq composite	73.00
	7,339.90
Standard & Poor's 500	25.87
	2,697.79
Russell 2000	9.66
	1,596.05

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# WEEKEND



Trampled By Turtles  
on the road again  
Music, Page 36

## Solemn sightseeing

100 years after the end of World War I, visit  
the sites that commemorate Americans  
who made the ultimate sacrifice

Page 28

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



DREAMTIME/TNS

**Facebook: Everyone's best social media frenemy.**

## Be wary of the features in Facebook's 'upgrade'

By KARLA PETERSON

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Now that I have browsed through the collection of new features Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg unveiled at the company's annual F8 developer conference last week, I have this to say: Beware of technology moguls bearing gifts.

Like the posts on your Facebook news feed, the F8 goodies are a mix of cool gizmos (An Oculus Go virtual-reality headset for \$199!); uplifting updates (Instagram is getting anti-bullying features!); and stuff that sounds kind of sketchy.

In an attempt to compete with OKCupid, Tinder and other dating apps, Facebook will be launching FaceDate, a free app that will match you with other Facebook users based on the data it has collected about you. Let's just think about that for a minute.

A dating app rooted in the community that also includes your mom, your nieces and nephews, your friend who has definitely gone over to the political dark side one or more times. A dating app making its recommendations based on comments you made while hate-watching "The Bachelor" and the emojis you fired off while waiting in line at Donut Bar.

A dating app that would allow an invasive social-media giant that has already played fast and loose

with your data to now be intimately involved in your love life.

That's not terrifying at all! Speaking of not terrifying, let's take a gander at how Facebook is planning to tackle the very real problem of fake news.

In a meeting with media executives last week, Zuckerberg said that Facebook plans to spend "billions and billions of dollars" to combat fake news, misinformation and hate speech. Zuckerberg also said that Facebook plans to spend "billions and billions of dollars" to combat fake news, misinformation and hate speech. Zuckerberg also said that Facebook plans to spend "billions and billions of dollars" to combat fake news, misinformation and hate speech.

Which means that in Facebook's battle against fake news, one line of defense includes the people who were fooled by fake news in the first place.

In more promising news, Zuckerberg said Facebook will be adding a "Clear History" feature, which is supposed to give you the option of erasing the information about the apps and websites you have interacted with while on Facebook.

Now that we know what's behind the curtain, the best option for people who still want to use Facebook is to treat it less like a friend and more like a frenemy. Laugh at its jokes. Coo at its baby pictures. But take everything it tells you with a heaping pile of salt and a quick peek at FactCheck.org.

**ON THE COVER: Carvings on the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery chapel depict soldiers fighting in trenches.**

MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

## GADGET WATCH

### Ergo's wireless trackball mouse is a great catch

By GREGG ELLMAN

Tribune News Service

Logitech's MX Ergo is a perfect choice for a wireless trackball mouse. And if you've never used a trackball mouse, you need to; don't be intimidated by its appearance.

The ergonomic mouse comfortably sits in your hand, and according to Logitech, it requires 20 percent less muscular strain than a regular mouse.

To help achieve the comfort, the MX Ergo is built with an adjustable hinge for personalization. This includes getting the right angle between zero and 20 degrees. You might not think a mouse with adjustments is necessary, but after you use it for a few minutes, you'll see the advantages. Or more accurately, you'll feel the advantages.

A trackball mouse has all the features you expect from a mouse, including left and right clicks, smooth scrolling and rolling trackball mounted into the frame. With Logitech options settings, you can customize buttons for an even greater personalization.

Inside is a rechargeable battery rated for four months of use before a USB charge is needed.

Logitech's Flow technology even allows for multi-computer workflow, so you can have the mouse connected to a pair of devices simultaneously. You can even copy and paste between connected devices.

For wireless connectivity, you have a choice between Bluetooth or through the included Logitech Unifying receiver.

Online: logitech.com; \$99.99

#### DE World's Grip

All-In-1 phone mount does the job anywhere.

I can say that because I've used it on land, water and air, taking it for a test drive on a recent flight attached to my seat tray and my rental car's dashboard and window. A few days later I even had it on my boat's dashboard, which I didn't use for phone calls, but did give me great access for controlling my music.

The mount is universal, so it securely holds most smartphones with a fully



LOGITECH/TNS



padded holster and allows for full access to the front-facing LCD and button controls. A suction cup holds the phone in place and is easily released without damaging the surface. You can have a smartphone angled vertically or horizontally.

With the Grip All-In-1, you can angle it in practically any direction with ease, using the locking ball head. The arm extends from 4.9 inches to 8.3 inches and gives you a 225-degree pivot.

In addition to the suction mount, the versatile system includes a dashboard grip pad, vent mount, 3M adhesive mount and even a CD slot mount. The latter gives you 360-degree rotation.

Online: watchmegrip.com; \$29.99

#### Adaptive Sound Technologies Inc.'s

LectroFan Kinder

Bedtime Buddy is

a smartphone-controlled sleeping device designed to produce sounds for a smooth sleeping environment for children.

The palm-sized device is designed to help create perfect sleeping habits at an early age with the help of today's technology.

Setting it up and controlling it is simple. Just put it into an AC wall outlet and download the free app (iOS and Android), which gives you access to 75 white noise sounds, soft night lights, volume and fan settings. Everything can be left on, or use the timer to turn it off.

With the app, you can choose the night light shade from a rainbow of colors you'll see glow on a top-side LCD. Adaptive was creative in naming some of the sounds, including ball game, coffee shop and ocean cruise.

There's no need for Wi-Fi; pairing is done when you open up the app, and then you'll have a 50-foot range.

Online: soundsofsleep.com; \$59.93

**The Grip All-In-1 phone mount goes anywhere and adjusts to accommodate just about any smartphone.**

DE WORLD/TNS

## ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes for the week ending May 3:

1. "Never Be the Same" (feat. Kane Brown, Camila Cabello)
2. "Meant to Be," Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
3. "Nice For What," Drake
4. "Whatever It Takes," Imagine Dragons
5. "No Tears Left to Cry," Ariana Grande
6. "Psycho" (feat. Ty Dolla \$ign), Post Malone
7. "God's Plan," Drake
8. "Ball For Me" (feat. Nicki Minaj), Post Malone
9. "The Middle," Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
10. "Some Bitches" (feat. G-Eazy &YG), Post Malone

— Compiled by AP

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify for the week ending May 8:

1. "This Is America," Childish Gambino
2. "Better Now," Post Malone
3. "Nice For What," Drake
4. "One Kiss" (with Dua Lipa), Calvin Harris
5. "No Tears Left to Cry," Ariana Grande
6. "God's Plan," Drake
7. "Psycho" (feat. Ty Dolla \$ign), Post Malone
8. "FRIENDS," Marshmello
9. "X," Nicky Jam
10. "I Like It," Cardi B

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

## ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending May 6:

1. "12 Strong"
2. "Raiders: Ragnok"
3. "Peter Rabbit"
4. "Game Night"
5. "The Post"
6. "The Greatest Showman"
7. "American Assassin"
8. "Den of Thieves"
9. "Fifty Shades Freed"
10. "Hostiles"



— Compiled by AP

## BOOKS

The top 10 books on Apple's iBook charts for the week ending May 6:

1. "The Fallen," David Baldacci
2. "The 17th Suspect," James Patterson
3. "Then She Was Gone," Lisa Jewell
4. "Twisted Prey," John Sandford
5. "The Next Girl," Carla Quattrone
6. "A Court of Frost and Starlight," Sarah J. Maas
7. "Worth Dying For," Lee Child
8. "I'll Be Gone in the Dark," Michelle McNamara
9. "After Anna," Lisa Scottoline
10. "Between Sisters," Kristin Hannah

— Compiled by AP

## APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending May 6:

1. Heads Up!
2. Minecraft
3. Plague Inc.
4. Facetime
5. Schedule
6. Bloons TD 5
7. PlanSnap Plant Identification
8. Geometry Dash
9. DRUID Impairment Evaluation
10. Goblin Sword

— Compiled by AP



## WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

## Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Courtesy of All Eyes Media

Trampled By Turtles is back together and promoting a happy-sounding album, "Life Is Good on the Open Road."

# 1

### Trampled By Turtles is back

Everybody needs a little time away, as they say. So after a decade of touring together, the members of Minnesota band Trampled By Turtles went their own way for a year. No one quite knew what would happen next, but as soon as they all got back into the same location for a weekend, inspiration struck. It's evident from "Life Is Good on the Open Road," the band's first new album in four years, that whatever they needed from their hiatus, they got. The band and its hard-to-pin-down musical style is back on tour, and making the most of its members' time and talents.

- Profile, review on Page 36.

# 2

### 'Thin Silence' game an introspective journey

Some video game releases are huge, noisy affairs, and some are more of an intriguing whisper, heard only by those who are really listening. One such is "The Thin Silence," a narrative adventure game told through the main character Ezra's introspection and recollection. Game distributor Steam describes it as "featuring that sound, that thin silence, that calls to us in our darkest hours. That sound we can't hear or describe, which somehow gives us the strength to try again and push through obstacles previously insurmountable ... a game of enduring your worst moment and facing the next one."

- Full game review on Page 35.

# 3

### 'Hero at Home' explains war injuries to children

Military spouse Sarah Verardo didn't just get upset when her husband's serious war injuries were misunderstood and made fun of. She did something about it. "Hero at Home," her book for children, explains at a basic level what it means when a parent comes home looking, and perhaps acting, differently than when he or she left. Through the book, Verardo hopes her children, and others, realize that their active-duty parents aren't victims — they're heroes.

- More about 'Hero at Home' on Page 38.



# 4

### Vanity Fair puts McCarthy to the test

Funnywoman Melissa McCarthy stars in "Life of the Party" this week, another movie directed by her husband, Ben Falcone. The movie itself isn't getting the best reviews, but McCarthy has gamely been hitting the promotion rounds. One of the more unusual appearances is when she takes a lie detector test for Vanity Fair. You've never seen McCarthy for so long accompanied by so little laughter or mania, but she nervously shares of lot of interesting bits, such as who her funniest friend is and who's her favorite "Friend" (from the TV show). All the while, the 47-year-old looks younger and more adorable than ever.

- Watch it at [tinyurl.com/y9tsouuj](http://tinyurl.com/y9tsouuj).

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



# Back to school

College comedy 'Life of the Party' a learning experience for co-stars

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

**"L**ife of the Party's" Debby Ryan only managed to find time to take a few college classes over the years because she's been so busy working on TV and film projects since she was 13. Her co-star in the new comedy film, Gillian Jacobs, not only graduated from Juilliard, but a major hunk of her acting career had her in "Community" college.

Despite the different educational backgrounds for Ryan and Jacobs, they stress how they got to share in an acting master class while working with Melissa McCarthy on the comedy directed by McCarthy's husband, Ben Falcone. The story of a middle-aged mom (McCarthy) deciding to go back to get her college degree when her husband asks for a divorce opens this weekend.

Ryan and Jacobs play college students, but they could not have more different roles to play. Ryan portrays Jennifer, the school tyrant who rules with an iron social fist and thinks every other classmate is her inferior. Jacobs plays Helen, a woman who enrolled in college after waking from a long, long coma that left her just a little off her mental game.

Debby Ryan, from left, Molly Gordon, Melissa McCarthy, Adria Arjona and Gillian Jacobs star in "Life of the Party."

WARNER BROS. PICTURES/TNS



**'It would be very easy to be intimidated by her because she is so unstoppable and such a legend, but the second you meet her, she has a way of breaking that down so you only have more respect for her.'**

Debby Ryan on "Life of the Party" co-star Melissa McCarthy

much nicer than Melissa."

This role's a big change for Ryan, who tends to get cast in nice girl roles, such as in the Disney Channel series "Jessie." The Alabama native's happy she was cast to play such a queen bee character.

"It shows that they believed in my abilities and that I have that kind of range," Ryan says. "It showed they knew I could bring this character to life. Most of the character was on the paper. But, when I had the second audition with Ben and Melissa, I was encouraged to play a little bit and improvise to make her my own."

"I like it when I have great writing, because if we had done it word-for-word, the film would have still been hilarious. That gives you a lot of comfort. Then when you get to know the actors' voices, it makes it easier to play."

Being able to make changes to the character is important when working with Falcone and McCarthy. Ryan got to watch how they would start with the script, but then improvise lines and actions in an

Both agree working with McCarthy was a wonderfully comfortable experience and a great opportunity to watch someone perform who has had so much success.

"She is so smart and gorgeous and hilarious and warm," says Ryan. "It requires a lot of power to do all she does with such grace and balance. It would be very easy to be intimidated by her because she is so unstoppable and such a legend, but the second you meet her, she has a way of breaking that down so you only have more respect for her."

Jacobs echoes those sentiments by saying normally she is intimidated by most people, but found McCarthy to be such a welcoming person that she immediately felt at ease.

"She really cares about the other actors and their talent," Jacobs says. "She has this rare ability to be both this powerhouse performer and a really kind and generous co-star. They don't come



**'She really cares about the other actors and their talent. She has this rare ability to be both this powerhouse performer and a really kind and generous co-star. They don't come much nicer than Melissa.'**

Gillian Jacobs on "Life of the Party" co-star Melissa McCarthy

effort to make the scene better. Everyone else in the scene gets the same opportunity to tweak their work to stay in comedic step.

Jacobs has been working in TV and film since 2005, but only started getting comfortable with improvising after landing the role of Britta on "Community" in 2009. She knew there would be a lot of room to go away from the "Life of the Party" script because Jacobs had accepted an invitation from "Community" co-star Jim Rash years ago to be part of a night of improv with the Los Angeles comedy theater and school The Groundlings. McCarthy, who had not become a household name yet, was also there that night, and Jacobs recalls how as soon as she saw her on stage, she knew McCarthy would be a big star.

And Jacobs got to work with the big star in "Life of the Party," playing one of the quirkiest characters in the film.

Much of the way Helen acts came directly from the script, but Jacobs

was happy that she also "got to be my weird self."

Getting to be in the film took some schedule juggling for Jacobs as the film was shot between the end of the second season of her series, "Love," and the start of the filming of the third season. The romantic comedy web television series created by Judd Apatow is available through Netflix.

Although Ryan and Jacobs play characters who travel in polar opposite social circles, they had to have a big scene together. The nature of that scene is being kept under wraps, but they both enjoyed getting to go head-to-head on screen.

Ryan called the sequence both fun and scary. She got past her fears because of getting to work so closely with Jacobs.

"She's incredible, and I've been a fan of her for years," Ryan says. "Getting to work with her was a real blessing and a real treat. I would do anything with her. It goes back to the working on the film because when you feel comfortable and get to play, it comes across on the screen."

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# 'Life of the Party' doesn't make the grade

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

**M**elissa McCarthy is a force of comedy nature when she takes on acting roles that push her into playing an interesting character. Check out her work in "The Heat" for one of the best examples of how good she can be with the right role.

Take a look at "Life of the Party" to see how bad she can be when the role is uninspired, uninteresting and underwhelming.

A trip to take her daughter, Maddie (Molly Gordon), back to college goes sour for Deanna (McCarthy) as she's abruptly told by her husband, Dan (Matt Walsh), that he wants a divorce. He's fallen in love with Marcie (Julie Bowen), a superficial real estate agent. Deanna's response is to make the decision to join her daughter at college to finish the degree she never got because of dropping out so she could support her husband.

Maddie's initial terror is calmed when Deanna becomes the BMOC (Big Mom on Campus). Mother and daughter are dealing with classes and sex lives so smoothly that all they have to do is find a way to make it to graduation, and all will be right with the world.

McCarthy must have gone shopping at the film stereotype thrift store to find the character. The middle-aged woman who doesn't know how to dress, is overly enthusiastic about school spirit and shows a brave face



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AF

Melissa McCarthy, center, plays a middle-aged housewife who returns to college in "Life of the Party."

when it comes to her husband has been used countless times in TV shows and film. It doesn't help that the character bears similarities to the work McCarthy did in "Spy" only three years ago.

The fact that Deanna is so likable even when she's too zealous for those around her eliminates any tension. There are a few attempts at some dramatic sparks,

including Debby Ryan (from TV's "Jessie") playing the coed who rules the campus with nasty sarcasm and a lack of respect for anyone. The effort falls flat because the campus already sides with Deanna, so there is no real power play.

Missing even more is the showdown between Deanna and her husband's new bride, Marcie. Having Bowen play a

real estate agent is complete miscasting because of her work on "Modern Family." Bowen's character on the ABC comedy is married to a real estate agent played with great charm and humor by Ty Burrell. All the real estate material delivered by Bowen in "Life of the Party" comes up short because of the natural comparison to Burrell's wonderful work.

One of the problems with "Life of the Party" is that it was directed by McCarthy's husband, Ben Falcone, who also co-wrote the script with McCarthy. They had the same problems they had working on "Tammy" and "The Boss." There's not an outside voice that can point out when the material and direction is languishing just below a cable TV comedy, leaving the mundane to survive.

"Life of the Party" isn't a complete magna cum blunder. Gillian Jacobs brings an energy and fun to her performance as Helen, a fellow college student who spent years in a coma. Jacobs finds the right amount of slight weirdness to playing the role without taking the character into the silliest levels.

Equally as funny is Heidi Gardner as Deanna's creepy roommate, Leonor. This is the most interesting character to hit a college campus since D-Day (Bruce McGill) rolled into Faber College for "Animal House." "Life of the Party" would have had way more life focusing on Gardner's character.

A couple of characters can't make up for how "Life of the Party" comes across so lifelessly. Recycled jokes, an overwrought plot idea and a by-the-numbers performance by McCarthy earns "Life of the Party" a failing grade.

"Life of the Party" is rated PG-13 for sexual material, drug use, some coarse language and partying. Running time: 105 minutes.

## Lean thriller 'Breaking In' could have used room to breathe

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

**T**he home invasion thriller "Breaking In" seems designed for the "Payback is a Mother" billboards around Los Angeles in anticipation of Mother's Day. The tale of young mother Shaun (a stern Gabrielle Union) battling a quartet of burglars to save her children is fairly brilliant Mother's Day programming (or counterprogramming), which is why it's a shame the movie itself isn't more fun.

Thrillers should be taut and ruthlessly efficient in storytelling. "Breaking In," written by Ryan Engle, directed by James McTeigue, doesn't have an ounce of fat on it. We're given only a few minutes of setup before we're thrown right into it.

Shaun and her kids, Jasmine (Ajiona Alexus) and Glover (Seth Carr), arrive at the remote country compound of her recently deceased father. She's long been estranged from him, and Shaun plans to spend the weekend getting ready to sell the house. They aren't there for more than a few minutes before a crew of four burglars, on the hunt for \$4 million in cash they heard her dad kept in a safe, have taken her kids hostage and locked Shaun out. So the riff on the "home invasion" angle is Shaun is the one trying to break into her house to save her children.

Everything "Breaking In" announces itself as significant — here's an insert of Shaun taking off her shoes, her bottle



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AF

Gabrielle Union, right, stars as a desperate mother hellbent on saving her two children being held in an impregnable home in "Breaking In," co-starring Ajiona Alexus.

of wine, the alarm system on the fritz, the control panel for the electronically controlled smart home. The whole thing is just a bit too tight, though — there's no room to play, or moments of reprieve to lure you into a false sense of security

before a jump scare.

The film privileges Shaun as a super-mom who's always one barefoot step ahead of the opportunistic crew, led by Eddie (Billy Burke), who spends more time psychoanalyzing her than actually get-

ting anything done. As a result, we never believe Shaun is truly in danger. As she hardens her gaze, considering the ways in which they've underestimated her, we worry more for the fate of the attackers than we do about Shaun and her children.

If anything, you wish for a few moments of camp or silliness to modulate the dynamics of the lean thriller. The dialogue eschews any cleverness or humor, instead stating everything plainly up front. Union gets to deliver a few great burns (like she did so well in "Bring It On"), but with such grimmess that none of them land with the kind of aplomb to elicit cheers.

Union is incredibly appealing, but her performance is one-note, because that's all she's given to do. When it comes to the henchmen, Richard Cabral, who plays the knife-wielding psychopathic ex-con Duncan, is a breakout. He's covered in tattoos and has the perfect snarl and crazy eyes to go with it. He's the best thing to watch in the film because he's scary, but mostly because he offers something different.

The disappointment of "Breaking In" is the wasted potential — there are a few plot setups that could have been further fleshed out or brought back around (why was her father being investigated by the DA?) and Union isn't given enough opportunity to truly display her charms. This thriller could have really used some room to breathe.

"Breaking In" is rated PG-13 for violence, menace, bloody images, sexual references and brief strong language. Running time: 88 minutes.





## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe

## After Hours: Italy

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

I've yet to find pizza by the slice in northern Italy. But tell me where in New York or Chicago you can find pasta by the cup?

Bigoì, an Italian franchise with shops in Vicenza, Verona, Venice and Padua, has been selling takeout pasta for the past couple of years. I'd seen people sitting on the stone steps of Vicenza's majestic Basilica Palladiana plastic-forking bigoi pasta to their mouths from a paper cup. They'd seemed content, but I'd wondered: How good could it be? Really good, it turned out.

Named for the Venetian dialect for bigoli, the fat, rough-surfaced egg pasta made fresh on site, Bigoi offers a quick, delicious lunch or dinner entree for less than 7 euros (about \$8.40).

I recently bought a cup with a tomato-based seafood sauce — clams and spices were visible — for 6.50 euros. I also bought a serving of meat sauce for 2 euros to try later. Both sauces were tasty. The pasta was hot and perfectly al dente, even after the five-minute walk home. I even felt good about the cup and fork, both biocompostable, according to the company.

The sauces are frozen, not fresh, but they taste as good as those in more expensive sit-down restaurants. And there are 10 to choose from, including plain or spicy tomato, pesto, duck, cuttlefish and cheese and pepper.

The storefront shop is modest and not meant for hanging out, although there is a small counter at which some diners stand and eat. There are no salads or other sides, only pasta and sauce. Drinks are likewise limited to the essentials: bottled Italian beer and water. As an added bonus, the Bigoi staff speak English.

Montgomery.nancy@stripes.com



Bigoi restaurant's bigoi pasta with seafood sauce, served in a biocompostable cup, is as good as or better than that served in sit-down restaurants.

## BIGOI VICENZA

Address: Contra Muscherie 21, 36100 Vicenza, Italy

Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays

Prices: Inexpensive. Entrees are 5-6.50 euros; drinks are 1-2 euros.

Information: Phone: (+39)0444 028459, website: bigoi.com

— Nancy Montgomery



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Bigoi, above and below, in downtown Vicenza, Italy, makes its pasta from wheat, eggs and salt on site. The pasta, like fat spaghetti, is known for its roughness, which helps sauces adhere.



## Daughter turns differences with mom into something delicious

BY OSAYI ENDOLYN  
Special to The Washington Post

My mom gets me. That's profound, not because of the relationship I reference, but because as a daughter, I'm finally saying so. I imagine it must be affirming, maybe maddening, for a parent to have their adult child state with authority a truth that has existed for decades. Yet, here we are. My mom "getting" who I am is only one part of the story, however. The second part is why she gets me, another truth I've recently realized: Surprise! — I'm a lot like her.

A couple of weeks ago, I introduced my mother to a dear friend over lunch. My friend turned to my mom and clasped his hands together. "Angela," he began in mock seriousness, "I have questions." "Hit me," she said.

"Tell me about baby Osayi. When did you know that all this?" — he gestured across the table toward me — "was going to be ... a situation?"

Minutes into their relationship, they were sharing knowing looks. I laughed into my bowl. I had expected them to bond over grape varieties. My mom, Angela Rushen Ross, rested her chopsticks. I braced myself. "When did I know she was going to be independent, go her own way?" she asked. "Early."

Like many of us, I determined how I felt about things by differentiating my opinions from those of my parents. Mom shows me the blue dress, I choose the red. I say college in New York, she says stay in California. (She won.) Mom makes a vibrant salad with romaine, grilled prawns, hearts of palm and grape tomatoes in a lemon vinaigrette. I'll have a burger.

But there were similarities. I tried out



Courtesy of The Endolyn family

Osayi Endolyn and her mother.

for cheerleading because I was enamored with the gorgeous photos of my mom in her gold-and-blue high school uniform.

She helped me thrive. She would record me reading aloud so I could hear that my rushed words raked me into a stutter. She oversaw my essay revisions before I ever dreamed of becoming a writer.

I recently texted her about this "amazing" salad I'd been evolving. Mild greens and fresh herbs, pan-seared spicy shrimp with cherry tomatoes, sliced Braeburn apples and daikon, all tossed in a tahini-lemon dressing. "Well, there you go," she wrote back. Ah. Right.

I am fortunate that my well of resources is based in my mother's love and guidance. It hasn't always been easy. Sometimes I felt judged. I know she sometimes felt dismissed. But I always knew love lived in the gaps. Lately, I'm figuring out that being the best version of myself often means pulling from the best of where I come from, even if that means I change the recipe a bit.

My favorite part of making my salad is making the dressing. I start with a dollop

of tahini and mix in honey, apple cider vinegar and a squeeze of lemon, then slowly add coconut milk until the texture is light and smooth. It has a calming effect that lets the disparate salad ingredients come together, but without losing their unique qualities.

My mom gets me. I get her, too.

## ANGIE'S DAUGHTER'S SALAD

## Ingredients

For the dressing:  
1 tablespoon tahini  
1 tablespoon honey  
2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil  
2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar  
Juice of ½ lemon (at least 2 tablespoons)  
½ cup regular or low-fat coconut milk  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
For the shrimp:  
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
4 to 8 ounces medium shrimp, peeled and deveined  
Pinch garlic powder (granulated garlic)  
Pinch sweet paprika  
Pinch ground cayenne pepper  
Pinch kosher salt  
Pinch freshly ground black pepper  
Juice of ½ lemon  
For the salad:  
2 to 3 handfuls homemade salad mix, such as a blend of butter lettuce or green leaf lettuce, watercress, radicchio, basil leaves, fresh dill  
2 ounces daikon radish, peeled and thinly sliced  
½ cup halved cherry tomatoes  
½ Braeburn apple, cored and thinly sliced  
Flesh of ½ avocado, cut into chunks (optional)



DEB LINDSEY/For The Washington Post

Angie's Daughter's Salad: fresh and tasty.

## Directions

**For the dressing:** Whisk together tahini, honey and oil in a large liquid measuring cup, until smooth, then add the vinegar and lemon juice. Gradually whisk in the coconut milk to form a smooth, emulsified dressing. Season lightly with salt and pepper. The yield is ½ to 1 cup.

**For the shrimp:** Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a large cast-iron or nonstick skillet over medium heat. Combine the shrimp, the remaining tablespoon of oil, the garlic powder, paprika, cayenne, salt and pepper, tossing to coat evenly. Transfer the shrimp to the skillet; sear for 2 to 3 minutes, then turn them over and cook for about 1 minute. The edges of some shrimp should have a bit of char. Transfer to a plate and sprinkle with the lemon juice.

**For the salad:** Toss together the salad mix, daikon, tomatoes, apple and the avocado, if using, in a mixing bowl. Add half the dressing; use tons to gently mix so the components are evenly coated. Add more dressing, as needed.

Divide between plates, then arrange equal portions of shrimp atop each salad. Drizzle with the remaining dressing. Serve right away.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## LEST WE FORGET

Visiting American WWI sites a century after conflict ended

By MICHAEL ABRAMS ■ *Stars and Stripes*

**O**ne hundred years ago World War I raged across much of Europe. The main adversaries, Great Britain and France on the one side and Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire on the other, had been fighting since August of 1914. Both sides were worn out, yet the war dragged on.

But each side had a ray of hope as 1918 progressed. The Germans had signed a peace treaty with Russia, freeing up many divisions to send to the western front. And the French and British had a strong, new ally on their side. The Yanks had arrived.

America had declared war on the Central Powers the year before, and as 1918 dawned it was pouring troops into Europe.

For the rest of the year, to the war's end in November, the Yanks, integrated into British and French units, and on their own, would help turn the tide to defeat Germany and its allies.

A century later you can visit the places where the American fought and died. The landscape is still pockmarked with craters from artillery shells, monuments honor those who fought and white marble crosses and Stars of David, in well-groomed cemeteries, mark where many of those killed still rest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Clockwise from top left: the World War I Montfaucon American Monument; the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery near Romagne, France; the monument to the 93rd Division's 369th Infantry Regiment; the Rainbow Division memorial near Fere-en-Tardenois, France.

PHOTOS BY  
MICHAEL ABRAMS  
*Stars and Stripes*





## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## FROM PAGE 28

Chateau-Thierry is about 60 miles east of Paris, on the Marne River. On a bluff high above the city is the Chateau-Thierry American Monument. Honoring the American and French soldiers who fought in the Aisne-Marne and Oise-Aisne offensives, it is an imposing structure consisting of a double row of columns on a long terrace. The western facade features two giant figures representing the U.S. and France, while an eagle adorns the side looking east, with a map showing the advances the Allies made after July 18, 1918.

When America entered the Great War, the regular Army — numbering just 127,000 troops — was in bad shape. Underfunded, undermanned and under-trained, the French and British commanders thought the arriving Americans should be used as replacements within their forces.

The American Expeditionary Forces commander, Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing, didn't agree and pushed to keep them under his command.

The Americans did have one proven fighting force, however: the U.S. Marine Corps.

And at the beginning of June, the Leathernecks were heading to battle at a forest outside the small village of Belleau.

As the Marines arrived at Belleau Wood, the French were getting ready to retreat. When it was suggested the Americans should do the same, Capt. Lloyd W. Williams, of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, entered Corps lore when he reportedly answered: "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!"

And they fought bravely and tenaciously. So much so that the leathernecks earned themselves another nickname. "Teufels-hunde," the Germans supposedly called them — "Devil Dogs." The name stuck and became another piece of Marine legend.

There are still traces of trench lines and artillery craters in the woods. A circle of plaques along a footpath tells the story of the battle and the bravery. In a clearing in the road, surrounded by period artillery pieces, stands the Belleau Wood Marine Monument. It depicts a U.S. Marine attacking with a rifle and bayonet in bronze bas-relief.

Many of the Marines that fell here are buried nearby at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery.

Administered, like all overseas American military cemeteries, by the American Battle Monuments Commission, 2,289 of our war dead are buried here. Among them is Navy Lt. j.g. Weedon E. Osborne, one of four Medal of Honor recipients from the battle.

The white crosses and Stars of David are laid out in a gentle curve under the wooded hill where the battle took place.

Overlooking the graves is the chapel with the names of more than 1,000 troops missing in action engraved in its walls. On its outside walls are carvings that depict fighting in the trenches.

Gazing over the graves and through the trees, one can see Belleau's church. Its original church was destroyed by 26th



**Clockwise from top: the west side of the Chateau-Thierry Monument; the Navarin Monument; the Sommepy American Monument looms over a battlefield; the L.T. Quentin Roosevelt Fountain in Chamerly, France, is dedicated to the son of President Theodore Roosevelt.**

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

Division artillery fire, but the Americans promised to rebuild the church and it was dedicated in 1929.

On highway D3 near Fere-en-Tardenois stands the simple but moving Rainbow Division Memorial. A bronze statue of an American soldier carrying a fallen comrade, it stands where the 42nd, or Rainbow Division, fought the battle of Croix Rouge Farm.

The division got its nickname from its rainbow-shaped and colored shoulder patch that represents the National Guard units from various states.

The battle there in July lasted two days, then the 42nd pursued the Germans across the Ourcq River and advanced more than 11 miles in eight days.

As the Allies pushed the Germans north and east in the Oise-Aisne Offensive, many of those killed were laid to rest at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in Seringes-et-Nesles.

"We don't have any generals

and we don't have any Medal of Honor recipients here, but we do have 6,012 Americans who gave their lives for their country buried here," said Bert Caloud, the cemetery's superintendent, as he walked among the graves.

One of those buried here is the poet Joyce Kilmer; another is Oliver Ames Jr.

A descendant of the founder of the Ames Shovel Company, the maker of the Army's entrenching tool, he mostly kept the fact a secret, figuring his fellow soldiers wouldn't appreciate him with all the trenches they had to dig.

Both served under Maj. "Wild Bill" Donovan, who went on to found the Office of Strategic Services in World War II, and both died within a day of each other.

Not far from the cemetery, in the village of Chamerly, is the L.T. Quentin Roosevelt Fountain. It is dedicated to the son of President Theodore Roosevelt. A pilot, he was shot down during aerial combat nearby. He was one of former president's three sons

who fought in the war.

On road D977 between Suippes and Sommepy-Tahure stands one of the more striking memorials to those who fell in battles in the area, the pyramid-shaped Navarin Monument. Inside is a chapel and an ossuary that holds the remains of 10,000 soldiers. It is topped by a statue of three soldiers by the sculptor Maxime Real Del Sarte that depict his brother who fell in battle, French general Henri Gouraud and Quentin Roosevelt.

From here, it is just a short jaunt up to the Sommepy American Monument. It commemorates the American units that served in combat with the French Fourth Army during the summer and fall of 1918. Sitting high on Blanc Mont Ridge, it offers a great view of what was the World War I battlefields from the platform atop its limestone tower.

Check out the remnants of the trenches, craters and gun emplacements that surround the monument.

## Europe

## KNOW &amp; GO

The story follows American troops — more or less — as they advanced from west to east. Chateau-Thierry was a starting point is about 225 miles west of Ramstein on the way to Paris or about 140 miles south of Mons, Belgium. For locations, opening hours and much more info on American cemeteries and monuments, go to the American Battle Monuments Commission website at abmc.gov.

— Michael Abrams

In 1918, American forces were still segregated. There were a number of African-American units in theater, but some of the white leadership didn't trust them in battle.

The French, who were used to black soldiers from their African colonies, had no such qualms. They were happy to accept the black American soldiers as replacements for their fatigued and decimated units.

Under French command, the units of the 93rd Division fought courageously. Near Sechault stands a monument to the division's 369th Infantry Regiment. Nicknamed the Black Rattlers, they earned another sobriquet during the war: Harlem Hell-fighters.

Two soldiers of the 93rd, Cpl. Freddie Stowers and Sgt. William Henry Johnson, were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1991 and 2015, respectively.

About 20 miles to the east is the Montfaucon American Monument.

Set high on a hill, like the Sommepy monument, it is a massive Doric column topped by a statue representing Liberty. Commemorating the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, a map of the battle is engraved in an inside wall. After climbing its 234 steps, one has a great view of what was once a bloody battlefield. Behind the monument are the ruins of the former village.

Nearby is Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. It is the largest administered by the ABMC in Europe with 14,246 war dead. Most died during the final offensive of the war, but here also lie some killed during the American expedition to Russia in 1918-19. There are 954 names engraved in the Tablets of the Missing.

Also buried here are nine Medal of Honor recipients, including Freddie Stowers.

At 11:11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918, the guns fell silent. World War I was over.

Nearly 100 years later, from Flanders Field American Cemetery in Belgium, to the Mont Sec Monument in eastern France, there remain many sights and sites commemorating the bravery and sacrifice of Americans fighting a war an ocean away from home.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe



## Wander Windsor

Windsor Castle, left, has been home to British royals for 900 years. That history continues when Harry and Meghan wed there at St. George's Chapel.

There's a lot to see, from ornate formal rooms to the miniature perfection of Queen Mary's Dolls' House to the rather stout suit of armor worn by Henry VIII. The castle closes at 5:15 p.m. in summer, an hour earlier in winter. After exiting, you can line up for (free) admission to Evensong at St. George's Chapel, a mostly sung service that sometimes features visiting choirs. Ask the guides where to stand and when to get in line.

The castle will be closed May 18 and 19 for the wedding and some apartments are closed other times of the year; [tinyurl.com/jywwk49](http://tinyurl.com/jywwk49).

Windsor Castle is about 25 miles from London and easy to reach. By train, head from Paddington to Slough and change at Slough for the Windsor & Eton Central train, which delivers you within steps of the castle. Round-trip tickets are about \$15. Entrance to the castle is about \$30.

AP photos

# For fans of British royals, a sightseeing itinerary

By MICHELLE LOCKE/Associated Press

**Y**ou got up in the wee hours to watch Prince William and Kate Middleton tie the knot in 2011. (And, if you're of a certain age, ditto for Charles and Diana way back in 1981.) You binge-watched "The Crown" on Netflix and are anxiously awaiting the show's next season. This year, with the nuptials of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in the offing, perhaps you're ready to visit England and enjoy some real-life crowning moments. From Windsor to window-shopping, here are some tips on where to get that regal feeling.

## Feel like a princess

Back in London, **Kensington Palace** feels surprisingly home-like for a palace. This is the official residence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, aka William and Kate, and Prince Harry. The grounds include the sunken garden where the latest royal engagement was announced. This was also home to Diana, Princess of Wales. An exhibit of some of her iconic outfits is on display through Jan. 6. For tickets: [tinyurl.com/yalfcb9l](http://tinyurl.com/yalfcb9l).

From the palace, you can walk to the **Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park**, right, a lovely and serene spot. Friendly notices advise that it's perfectly OK to sit on the side of the fountain and dip your feet.



## (Window) shop 'til you drop

Bond Street, which runs through Mayfair from Oxford Street to Piccadilly Circus, is an excellent place to window-shop, teeming with high-end shops, including Asprey's, jewelers to the royal family since Queen Victoria. The Piccadilly entrance is around the corner from Burlington Arcade, a covered shopping alley featuring a number of luxury boutiques.

Across the street from the arcade's Piccadilly entrance is Fortnum & Mason, famed supplier of gourmet food hampers (the young Prince Charles gets one in the boarding school episode of "The Crown"). You can look at samples and plan a palatial picnic, see luxury goods on upper floors, including Launer handbags favored by the queen.

Get a casual bite in The Parlour or spring for lavish afternoon tea in the Diamond Jubilee Tea Room.



AP photos

## Et cetera

**Westminster Abbey**, above, is packed with modern royal history. It was the site of Queen Elizabeth II's wedding and her coronation, the first ever to be televised, as well as William and Kate's wedding. You'll find the tombs of many noble and notable figures here, including Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. Don't miss the coronation chair, which has been used in coronation ceremonies since the 14th century.

**St. Paul's Cathedral**, north visiting in its own right, has a royal wedding tie-in as well. Charles and Diana were married here, and she swept the 25-foot train of her wedding dress up steps red-carpeted for the occasion.

The **Tower of London** isn't exactly the home of fairy-tale romance. This is where two famous royal wives, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, met their ends. But it is home to the Crown Jewels, including the 530-carat Cullinan I diamond, set in the Sovereign's Scepter with Cross that's been used in every coronation since Charles II in 1661. The most often-asked question from visitors, according to the official website, is "Are they real?" The answer: "Yes, they are!"



## Take the rei(g)ns

**Buckingham Palace** is a must-see for devotees of "The Crown" — even though the series isn't actually filmed there. In the summer, part of the palace is open to the public; tickets sell out fast, so book ahead. Almost any time of year, you can visit the Queen's Gallery, a small but thoughtfully curated selection of art from the royal collection.

From February to November, visit the **Royal Mews**, which houses stables, the carriage house and garage. You'll likely see horses, as well as glittering carriages. The standout is the huge, gilded **Gold State Coach**, above, used at every coronation since George IV in 1821. You can even sit for a photo in a replica of the landau favored by Queen Victoria and imagine yourself trotting past crowds of adoring subjects, waving regally of course.

A combined ticket for the Queen's Gallery and Royal Mews costs about \$27.

Planning to visit lots of attractions? Consider a multi-venue option like the London Pass.

# RESTAURANT DIRECTORY



## GERMANY



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# HOTEL DIRECTORY



## GERMANY



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## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes



**H**istory can be found anywhere if one looks close enough — including under the road you're driving on.

Nagasaki City's Mitsubishi Sumiyoshi Tunnel Arms Factory is such a place.

Located about a mile from Nagasaki Peace Park, which was ground zero for the second atomic bomb ever used in combat, the tunnel arms factory sits almost completely obscured underneath the overpassing roadway. It remains an ominous aide-memoire.

I visited the tunnels on a sunny day in March. I parked at a convenience store and descended a nearby flight of stairs.

Peering inside, one could see the bare rock that witnessed unimaginable horrors. A heavily rusted torpede that looked like it was found inside was also on display. I was left in awe of what had happened at the site and how much things have changed in the intervening years.

The tunnels, which were commissioned in August 1944, served as a hidden backup for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' Ohashi Arms Factory, which was located about a half-mile away and specialized in the around-the-clock production of aircraft torpedoes.

The site was designed to feature six parallel tunnels that would connect Sumiyoshi with Akasako under the mountain, according to literature provided by Nagasaki City officials. Factory equipment was moved in as portions of the tunnels were completed to escape intensifying air raids from the U.S. military.

By the end of the war, only two tunnels were in operation and the others remained incomplete.

In Tunnel 1, the mostly teen-aged volunteers and draftees produced torpede body and rudder parts and polished joints. The precision department in Tunnel 2 manufactured the propellers, rudders and motion stabilization parts. The parts were transported to the Ohashi factory where about 80 torpedoes were assembled per month.

Conditions were tough, and a Japanese navy major general was assigned to patrol the floor during the three shifts to ensure the strictest of disciplinary standards were being observed.

Both factory workers and the tunnel construction labor force, which consisted primarily of enslaved Koreans, lived onsite just outside of the tunnels.

On the morning of Aug. 9, 1945, when an atomic bomb detonated over nearby Matsuyama area, approximately 1,800 personnel and 1,000 Korean construction workers were working on site at Sumiyoshi. The detonation either killed or severely burned anyone caught outside.

"Suddenly the tunnel was filled with a pale blue light, and there was a loud noise followed by a blast wave, and then the lights went out," one worker recounted, according to the display outside the factory today. "Rock fragments came raining down from the roof of the tunnel. The zinc

roofing that was put up to prevent dripping came down with a clatter."

Immediately after the blast, those working inside ran out to aid the injured.

"I groped my way out of the tunnel on my hands and knees to find all the surrounding thatched-roof farmhouses ablaze with a fearsome roar," the eyewitness recalled. "Those who had been working outside the tunnel had either been killed, smashed into the machinery by the force of the blast or had been injured by flying objects."

The tunnels became a refuge and were soon packed with the injured — some with limbs blown away, internal organs exposed, bodies covered with burns and blisters and some with broken or loose skin hanging off their frames.

Medicines were scarce and many died inside the tunnels, pleading for water. The day after the bombing, the tunnels were converted into an emergency facility by the Japanese navy.

After two or three days of rescues and administering first aid, the workers were finally able to leave the tunnels and head home.

The tunnels were permanently abandoned shortly after.

Today, city officials said the tunnels serve as a monument to peace and a symbol of the renunciation of war and the elimination of nuclear weapons. As such, efforts to preserve and reinforce the tunnels have been made, and visitors to the site can view the exterior of the tunnels at any time. Visitors wishing to enter the tunnels can contact the Nagasaki Bomb Museum for more information.

There isn't much to the tunnels, so I recommend visiting as part of a more comprehensive tour of Nagasaki's historical sites. However, the site is sort of an oddity, a place where rather than destroy history, the decision was made to preserve and drive right over it.

burke.matt@stripes.com

## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

18 Sumiyoshimachi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken 852-8154

## TIMES

The arms factory can be viewed through metal bars at any time. For those wishing to enter, one must contact the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. The site is rigged with motion-sensor lights so it can be viewed even at night.

## COSTS

Free

## FOOD

A Daily Yamazaki convenience store is located about 25 yards from the site.

## INFORMATION

095-844-3913; nagasakipeace.jp/japanese/abm/insti/6.html.

— Matthew M. Burke



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Mitsubishi Sumiyoshi Tunnel Arms Factory in Nagasaki City manufactured aircraft torpedoes in the final days of World War II and was witness to the horrors of the atomic bombing on Aug. 9, 1945.

# What lies beneath

## Workers in the Mitsubishi Sumiyoshi Tunnel Arms Factory came to the aid of atomic bomb victims



A torpede, at top, on display at Mitsubishi Sumiyoshi Tunnel Arms Factory, above.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

Left inset: A golf course with Mauna Kea behind; Center: A couple watches the glow of Halemaunuu Crater on Hawaii; Bottom: A surfer floats off Waikiki.

Photos courtesy of Hawaii Tourism Authority



## Finding the aloha spirit on 3 Hawaiian Islands

Looking north along the Windward Oahu coast.

By DOUG HANSEN

The San Diego Union-Tribune

**T**he Hawaiian Islands hold a special, almost mystical, appeal for many mainland Americans and Asian visitors, myself included. Recently I traveled to Oahu, the Big Island and Kauai to see which island I liked best, and to discover new places to stay and activities not to be missed.

I began my odyssey in Oahu, the most well-known and populous island. Using the centrally located Laysan Waikiki hotel as my base, I wandered along Waikiki's main street, Kalakaua Avenue, and marveled at the diversity of shops, restaurants and hotels that attracted countless visitors. As dusk approached, street musicians provided background music while two bare-chested, muscular Hawaiian men, holding torches, invited visitors into the historic International Market Place to watch its free, half-hour Hawaiian culture show, and to explore its upscale shops and huge banyan tree, once the site of Don the Beachcomber's tree-house, where he lived for years. Instead of shopping, I decided to watch the sunset from the beach, so I headed down a walkway lined with dozens of 9-foot-tall longboards, emerging to find a crowd of similarly minded folks snapping sunset selfies as the red orb dropped below the horizon and painted the iconic Diamond Head crater in crimson shades.

Fortunately, the Laysan provided a peaceful oasis in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Waikiki. From my room upstairs, I had a better view from my two balconies of the distant moun-

tains, various high-rise condos and hotels, and a glimpse of the ocean. The recently renovated hotel had a midcentury modern decor that made my room look clean and pleasant.

The next day, I joined two activities that I recommend. First, Hawaii Jeep Tours took us on a three-hour excursion around the south and east sides of Oahu. We stopped several times to admire spectacular views of the turquoise ocean bordered by tawny sand beaches and green-clad mountains. But my greatest thrill was seeing humpback whales cruising through these breeding waters, not only spouting as usual but also hurling themselves out of the water (known as breaching). The tour did a good job of revealing the beauty of Oahu outside of congested Honolulu. Later that evening, the good times rolled as we boarded a chartered yacht, Vida Mia, for a memorable sunset cruise replete with fine wine, appetizers and a splendid view of the Waikiki skyline glittering in various hues while a brilliant full moon rose over Diamond Head.

**The Big Island, where I headed next, is also called Hawaii, and it differs in many ways from Oahu.** The Big Island has only 186,000 people occupying more than 4,000 square miles, while Oahu packs nearly a million people in 597 square miles. This largest of all the Hawaiian Islands boasts 11 of the world's 13 climate zones, and Mauna Kea, which, when measured from the ocean floor, is considered the world's tallest mountain (it rises 33,000 feet, or 13,800 feet above sea level).

The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, my refuge for the next two days, lies on the reliably dry and sunny

western side of the island, where much of the landscape is dominated by otherworldly-looking black, jagged lava fields. Fortunately, the hotel sat next to Hanalei Beach, one of the island's largest white sand beaches, with clear, turquoise water that beckoned paddleboarders, kayakers, swimmers and snorkelers like me. Mauna Kea was the first resort built on the island by Laurence Rockefeller in 1965, and in 2006 it received an extensive remodel, bringing its midcentury modern rooms back to top standards.

As I explored the hotel's grounds, just past the beehives that produce pure honey for guests and the chefs, I found a gorgeous, world-class 18-hole golf course, part of which hugged the rocky shore so closely that the ocean floor is undoubtedly blanketed by golf balls. Adjacent to the hotel lobby lay an 11-court tennis club, so near to the ocean that a mis-hit tennis ball would join the golf balls in the ocean. An ample swimming pool overlooked the ocean, but I felt irresistibly drawn to the long, curving sandy beach and the rich, blue ocean water below. The first day's strong winds subsided enough to allow me to snorkel along a rocky outcropping where at least 20 kinds of fish beguiled my senses.

The highlight of the trip was a Sunshine Helicopter flight. We arrived at the heliport around sunrise, and as the helicopter gracefully ascended in the dawn sky, we watched the full moon setting over a pastel-colored ocean. Our 90-minute flight soared over the craggy shoreline and waterfall-laden valleys.

**My final destination, Kauai, is an island tied with the Big**

**Island for first place in my heart.** Kauai, rightfully called "the Garden Island," is only one-seventh the size of the Big Island but offers dramatic coastlines — the Napali Coast in particular — and a mini-Grand Canyon called Waimea Canyon. Its small population and compact size, plus a law that prohibits building anything taller than a palm tree, appealed to me.

My final choice of lodging, the Koia Landing in Poipu, was the newest of the three Marriott Hawaiian Autograph Collection hotels in which I stayed on this trip, and while the property had a moderately attractive exterior, my room was outstanding. It had a full kitchen and tasteful decorations that made it a perfect base for exploring the island. For foodies who want to try Hawaiian specialty foods, the Koia Landing has partnered with world-famous chef Sam Choi and offers his creations in the poolside restaurant.

Our explorations took us to Opaekaa Falls, near a placid river perfect for kayaking, then on to Steelgrass Farm for a unique chocolate tour, at the end of which we sampled half a dozen varieties of its specialty chocolates. And what better way to end the day than to visit the Koia Rum store and sample their award-winning rum?

Since Kauai has one of the rainiest places on Earth — Mount Waialeale, which receives nearly 460 inches per year — I shouldn't have been surprised by the gale-force winds and lashing rain that greeted my departure. The weather notwithstanding, I felt Hawaii's aloha spirit in my heart when I contemplated all the unforgettable experiences I had on three magical islands.

## IF YOU GO

### HONOLULU, OAHU

**Lodging:** The Laysan Waikiki, 2299 Kuhio Ave., Honolulu; (808) 922-6600 or reservations (866) 913-6852; layowan-hawaii.com.

**Activities:** Hawaii Jeep Tours, jeeptourshawaii.com; (888) 594-2329.

Vida Mia private yacht charter, (808) 358-7056; thevidamiamia.com.

**Shopping:** The International Marketplace, 2330 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu; (808) 921-0536; shopinternationalmarketplace.com.

### BIG ISLAND

**Lodging:** Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, 62-100 Mauna Kea Beach Drive, Kohala Coast; (808) 882-7222 or reservations (877) 880-6524; MaunaKeaBeachHotel.com.

**Activities:** Sunshine Helicopters, Hapuna Helicopter, 62-100 Kauna'oa, Kamuela; (800) 469-3000; sunshinehelicopters.com. Manta Ray Moonlight Snorkel, located at Mauna Kea's beach kiosk; (808) 987-5580; maunakeamantas.com.

### KAUAI

**Lodging:** Koia Landing Resort at Poipu, 2641 Poipu Road, Kohala; (808) 725-2596; koialandingsresort.com.

**Activities:** Steelgrass Chocolate Farm Tour, (808) 821-1857; steelgrass.org. Koia Rum store and tasting room, (808) 246-8900; KoiaRum.com.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL



HARALD FRANZEN/For The Washington Post

Pepper, a German Schnauzer, sits at sunset in the courtyard of the Louvre Museum in Paris.

# See Spot sail

## Land and sea alternatives to flying with your pet — and how to keep them safe when you can't avoid it

BY ANDREA SACHS  
The Washington Post

In 2010, Pepper and Nikki Moustaki embarked on a European adventure that did not involve one plane ride. The pair sailed round trip from New York to Southampton, England, on the Queen Mary 2 and bounced around Germany, Belgium, France and the Netherlands in cars and trains. During their two-month stay in Paris, they relied on their feet (or paws, in Pepper's case) and Metro to get around the City of Light.

Pepper, by the way, is a schnauzer, and Nikki is his person.

"Personally, I'm not a fan of flying. Just the stress of thinking about what could go wrong in the air ruins the beginning of what could be a great trip," said Moustaki, a dog trainer and author who splits her time between New York City and Miami. "But I love taking my dog with me wherever I go. So I need to find suitable alternative means of travel."

For pet owners, flying with their four-legged family members is the opposite of a relaxing belly rub. According to the Transportation Department, the major U.S. airlines flew more than a half-million animals last year; of those, two dozen died.

Animal rights organizations and advocates are not against the idea of pets on planes, but they urge owners to consider all forms of travel before booking a flight.

"In general, air travel is safe for your pets, but it's better to travel by train or car," said Amy Nichols, vice president of companion animals at the Humane Society of the United States. "Think of what's best for the animal and not

what you prefer."

There are several options, on land and sea, that allow you to bypass that big bird in the sky. However, if you can't avoid flying, the experts have provided some tips to make the flight as safe, calm and comforting as possible — for all species involved. (Note: The critters discussed below are leisure pets; the rules covering service animals are different.)

■ ■ ■

Not all pets travel well. Seniors, puppies and ailing dogs are better left at home, as are brachycephalic breeds, which often suffer from breathing difficulties. Most airlines ban snub-nosed dogs from the cargo hold.

Weather is also critical. You don't want to expose your animal to extreme temperatures at any point along the trip.

"Summer is not a good idea for any pet," said Susan H. Smith, president of PetTravel.com, a comprehensive guide for domestic and international pet travel.

For international trips, know the country's entry requirements for live animals. Some countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia, quarantine incoming pets; others, such as Germany and Britain, ban certain breeds.

For all destinations, domestic and abroad, pack a copy of your pet's most current health report. In Europe, you will need an E.U. health certificate issued by a U.S. Agriculture Department-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by your state USDA office. The document must contain vaccination and rabies records, plus proof of a tapeworm test, depending on the country. You must also microchip your pet, in case Bandit decides to run off with the Romanian circus.

### By train

For the most part, trains in Europe are incredibly generous to pets. Some countries let the fashionably furry passengers ride free and even on their owners' laps. Mark Smith, a British cat owner who founded travel website the Man in Seat Sixty-One, created an informative page about pet travel on trains and ferries.

"There are little problems and quirks," he said about the various rules governing each country's rail service.

For instance, Britain's National Rail allows two animals per passenger for no charge. On the Caledonian Sleeper, which fans out across England and Scotland, passengers and their pets can bunk together in a cabin for about \$43, plus the people ticket fare. However, if you want to cross the English Channel on the Eurostar, you can't — the high-speed train that links London to destinations on the mainland does not permit animals.

### By sea

Only one cruise line invites pets onboard: Cunard's Queen Mary 2. The ocean liner, which sails back and forth between New York and Southampton, England, offers 24 kennels for \$800 to \$1,000 a pop. A full-time Kennel Master oversees the feeding, walking and housecleaning of the four-legged cruisers, who receive a gift bag including a QM2-monogrammed coat and Frisbees, among other treats.

"Imagine a ship that offers the finest food, white glove service, amazing entertainment and incredible shore excursions," Moustaki said. "Now imagine that you're taking this trip with your dog."

Cunard does not accept all breeds. It prohibits some dogs because of size (Great Dane, Irish wolfhound, St. Bernard and malamute, among others) and others because of British restrictions (pit bull terrier, Japanese tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro). For shorter sea sojourns, many ferries in Europe and the United States lower the gateway for pets. Depending on your style of land travel (car or train) and the company's rules, you can walk or drive onto the boat with your pet. Some companies invite the animal to stay in the vehicle or a kennel; others invite them to come on deck and feel the sea breeze on their snouts, as long as they are leashed. Pet-embracing operations in Europe include Brittany Ferries (France and Spain); Condor (France, Channel Islands); DFDS Seaways (France, Netherlands); Irish Ferries; P&O (Belgium, France, Netherlands); and Wightlink (Isle of Wight in England). Rates range from free to about \$100.

### By car

Moustaki's advice: Restrain your dog in the back seat with a harness, with the leash clipped on. Pack such essentials as a non-spill water dish for the back seat, potty pads, plastic bags, a blanket and a towel, paper towels, treats and your dog's regular food. She also recommends a hands-free leash that wraps around your waist, so that you can carry your luggage without losing your grip on your pet.

Drivers will need to stop every few hours for a bathroom and water break. Nichols recommends every four to six hours for adults and more frequent stops for younger and older dogs. If your pet starts acting "spacey," Nichols said dehydration could be the culprit. In addition, though dogs love to stick their heads out, keep the windows shut. Debris could fly into their faces and eyes.

### By plane

Commercial air offers three ways to transport pets: as carry-on, cargo or checked luggage. Keeping your pet within close reach (meaning, at your feet) is preferable, of course. However, the airlines limit the size of the carrier and therefore the animal. In addition, some countries (South Africa, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Britain, for instance) do not permit animals in the cabin; they must fly as cargo.

For carry-on creatures, Smith recommends a soft-sided carrier (vs. a hard case or whale-size purse) with a waterproof bottom, secure fasteners and good ventilation.

In a match between checked baggage and cargo, the former wins.

"I would advise the less time in the possession of the airline, the better," Nichols said, "so checking [your pet] with luggage would be preferred over handing them over hours in advance."

Sending your crated animal as luggage is often less expensive and stressful for both of you. For the checked bag scenario, simply bring your pup to the airport check-in counter with the rest of your luggage shortly before going through security. You will retrieve your pet in the baggage claim area, among the other oversized pieces of luggage, such as golf clubs and skis.

By comparison, if your pet travels as air cargo, you will have to drop off your dog four or more hours before takeoff at a facility that is often separate from the main terminal. Your loved one could sit in an un-air-conditioned cargo terminal for hours, waiting to be loaded.

"Pets are at the greatest risk before they even take off," said Smith.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



# A PERSONAL JOURNEY

‘The Thin Silence’ is an emotional tale that plays with your expectations

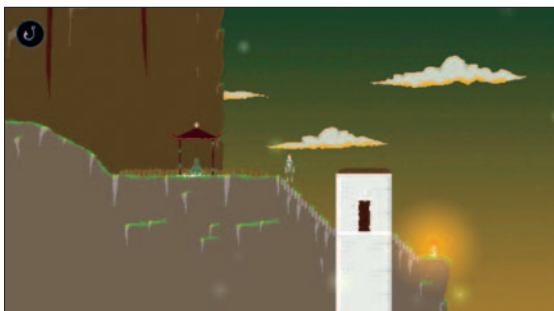
By CHRISTOPHER BYRD  
Special to The Washington Post

In the past decade, a number of indie developers have reinterpreted video-game forms from the past to tell emotionally infused stories. Ben Follington and Ricky James’ “The Thin Silence” does this by mining the look of 1980s games to tell a strange, circuitous tale about a man’s search for purpose and self-forgiveness.

What their contemplative game lacks in visual pizzazz, it makes up for in its humanistic writing, somber ambient soundtrack (by Lightfrequency) and solid, albeit conventional, gameplay. It pitches itself at your mind more than your eyes.

Video games often traffic in delayed gratification. Experienced players who pick up a new fighting game or an RPG are likely aware that it will take time for them to come to grips with a game’s intricate systems or submenus. “The Thin Silence” pushes the concept of story-based delayed gratification.

This is not a game that’s in a rush to lay out what’s going on. At the start we see a man sitting near the wall of a cavern. Then the image cuts to a distressed man with his arms gripping his head standing between a torch-wielding crowd and a band of armed soldiers. Eventually it grows clear that the seated man and the person caught between the contentious groups is Ezra Westmark,



an ex-government minister who is tormented by self-recriminations. Why he feels as he does is more obscure.

Ezra stands up in the cavern after a small chunk of the ceiling collapses, causing a shaft of light to stream in. Maneuvering him about turns up your first item: a boot. Over time, you’ll discover a variety of other items — a hook, a sign, matches, etc.

Some of these things can be combined via a simple crafting menu, which allows you to add up to three components. So, for example, the hook paired with the boot changes into a climbing boot with obvious functionality. It makes sense that you should have to craft such an item early on since on a visual and metaphorical level, “The Thin Silence” is about a journey from the depths to the heights, from internal confusion to self-acceptance.

As you traverse the world using the items in your inventory to overcome obstacles — from spatial gaps to obstructive objects — you’ll come across documents that allude to a civil war raging between government and rebel forces. The most intriguing of these are authored by Dr. Shavi Mantha, a psychiatrist who is acquainted with Ezra.

Mantha contends that the surrounding society is sick, that the ruling government is outrageously corrupt and that its citizens have lost a sense of shared purpose and community. Through his samizdat writings, Mantha, sounding very much at times like the self-help author Mark Manson, encourages his readers to embrace the suffering

they have known and use the knowledge gained through this suffering to push their society in a different direction.

While I took a modest bit of pleasure in expanding Ezra’s tool kit and learning how to bypass puzzles, I was, for stretches of the game, unsure of what was going on or what I thought of it. I was not enamored enough with figuring out ways to get from point A to point B to ignore the reason I kept playing — discovering context and meaning for my efforts. By the time I reached the end, I had discovered both, which made me retroactively appreciate how the game had courted my uncertainty.

When I spoke with the game’s creators, they told me that the way “The Thin Silence” plays with expectations is by design. Apparently, I’d fallen into their trap perfectly. Later, over email, Ricky James noted: “‘The Thin Silence’ takes place in this big, empty world both physically and socially; there are huge panoramic landscapes devoid of people, and this sense of loneliness everywhere. We wanted to evoke that sense, and put the players in a position to feel not only isolated but also like this was a world of so much promise that hasn’t been realized, or has been lost. That’s the position Ezra is in as he grapples with his mental health. This emptiness is the result of a civil war, a parallel of Ezra’s internal conflict.”

At its core, this retro game is about our individual and collective difficulty with embracing different forms of forward thinking. It has the austerity and the warmth of a low-fi song about our not-so-charming inadequacies.

“The Thin Silence” is a narrative adventure game told through the introspection and recollection of Ezra Westmark. Players follow Ezra’s journey, from his self-imposed exile to forgiveness and hope.

Photos courtesy of Two PM Studios

# WEEKEND: MUSIC

By CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

**D**ave Simonett didn't know what to expect when he and his Trampled By Turtles bandmates finally got together at a cabin last October.

After a decade of being stuck in a van and then a tour together, the members of Minnesota's ta's widely loved acoustic sextet went a full year without ever being in the same room. They agreed to meet at banjo player Dave Carroll's family lake place near Grand Rapids, Minn., for a weekend.

There was loose talk of working on new songs. Mostly they just planned to hang out.

"We really hadn't talked anything through, so I didn't know if there would be any grievances to air or whatever," said Simonett, frontman of the group and also the one responsible for shelving it.

As the members started arriving at the cabin, though, so came the news: Tom Petty had passed away. For a bunch of dudes in their 30s and 40s who mostly grew up in smallish Midwestern towns, that was a big one.

"We went down to the lake with a Bluetooth speaker and listened to just about every record of his," Simonett recalled.

Along the way came lessons about how life is short, music is forever and a great band like Petty's is a rare find, not to be undervalued.

No wonder that we got a new Trampled by Turtles album on May 4, just half a year later.

With a title that optimistically points to what lies ahead for Simonett and his crew for the rest of the year, "Life Is Good on the Open Road," the new 12-song collection, is the band's first record in four years. It also marks the end to an almost two-year hiatus from the stage.

There was a remarkable swift-ness to the band's reunion, too.

"We played music together late into the night, and late into the next night, too," Simonett remembered from the cabin. "It felt like only one day had passed since we were last together, not one year."

## Where they left off

One listen to "Life Is Good on the Open Road" confirms that sentiment; it sounds like Trampled never left.

The gallon-paced banjo and fiddle in the opening tune and first single, "Kelly's Bar," sounds as familiar and distinctive as the lyrical references to Red Wing and Winona and the adventures found in between. There's more manic and rapid-fire string picking — from the band that proudly wore the "Ramones of bluegrass" tag — in subsequent tunes such as "Blood in the Water" and "Annihilate."

The record also boasts plenty of slower, more melodic, lushly textured tracks in the vein of the band's game-changing 2012 single "Alone," including the contemplative but celebratory title track and the album's reaview-mirror-tinted "I'm Not There Anymore."



# ‘We’re right back where we started off’

Tom Petty's passing helped Trampled By Turtles realize that life's too short to remain on hiatus

"We're right back where we started off," Simonett sings mid-way through the record, words he's all too happy to echo when asked about how the album came about so quickly after the lull.

"It felt like it did a long time ago," Simonett said. "For most of the recording, we just sat in a circle and played songs together. That was mostly it. We didn't have an outside producer. It was really low-pressure and easy. It brought us back to like 2007."

If everything came together so smoothly and cheerfully, why did Trampled by Turtles come apart in the first place?

"It was really my fault," Simonett said. "My personal life was super chaotic at the time, and creatively I really wanted to make the record that became the Dead Man Winter record."

## Road goes on forever

A more electrified side project/moniker he started around 2011, Dead Man Winter became

the vehicle by which Simonett wrote his most personal album to date, "Furnace," written as he retreated to a temporary home in Red Wing following a divorce. He said he needed to "clear the decks" to get through that difficult record, which came out to strong press and favorable fan reaction at the start of 2017.

"[Trampled] toured so much, it was just too hard to find time to make that kind of record and give it the energy I wanted to give it," he said. "Especially since I have two young kids, there was never time between Trampled tours to get much done."

While Simonett focused on "Furnace," the other members of his original band took on a wide variety of projects.

Bassist Tim Saxhaug started a film-production company in Grand Rapids while also touring in Dead Man Winter. Fiddler Ryan Young rejoined his prior band Pert Near Sandstone for

some gigs while also producing them and younger acts in his home studio. Cellist Eamonn McLain played with Lucy McClain's band Field Trip. Banjoist Dave Carroll settled into a new home life in Steamboat Springs, Colo., and gigged a little around the ski-resort circuit.

While tending to his small farm north of Duluth with his wife and two kids, Berry stayed active in the Duluth music scene, playing acoustic gigs with friends and making a traditional Irish record with Teague Alexy.

While they admitted to getting burned out by Trampled's demanding schedule before the hiatus, Berry and Simonett both sound unequivocally eager to get back to playing shows again. They're booking gigs through the fall, including European dates.

The album's title track isn't the only new song that celebrates life on the road. So does "Thank You, John Steinbeck," an ode to the "Grapes of Wrath" author's

## REVIEW

### Trampled By Turtles

Life Is Good on the Open Road (Thirty Tigers)

One of the first questions you have to answer with Trampled By Turtles is what they are: A quirky bluegrass band with rock and punk influences? A rock band that shapes its anthems with fiddles and mandolins?

Let's table that for a moment and start here: the sextet from Minnesota creates first-rate, heartfelt songcraft. They're at it again on "Life Is Good on the Open Road," the band's first album in four years.

Lead singer Dave Simonett sets the songwriting foundation. He's back with the band after a detour for a wonderful 2016 solo project under the name Dead Man Winter. That led to an unabashed breakup album, and at times this sounds like a sequel.

Simonett is still processing on somber ballads like "We All Get Lonely" and "Thank You, John Steinbeck." The band's ability to make a fiddle, a mandolin or even a banjo sound mournful elevates the wistful effort.

The mood is interrupted briefly by a primal scream of a song called "Blood in the Water," which seems more angry than cathartic. The thrashing seems misplaced on an otherwise thoughtful album, but soon it's back to the more carefully considered work the band does best.

As for the labeling dilemma, sure, Trampled By Turtles works the turf between rock, bluegrass and other influences. Maybe the only pigeonholing they need is this: They are American originals, still exploring and still delivering moody, evocative music.

— Scott Stroud  
Associated Press



beloved book "Travels With Charley," which Simonett reread at a pivotal point during the band's long break.

There's a section at the beginning before [Steinbeck] leaves where he tells friends he's taking this epic road trip, and most of the people say they wish they could go with him," the singer explained. "Everybody loves the idea of a road trip, even if you get out on the road it starts to wear you down and [stuff] happens."

"I didn't ever want to take touring for granted. It's what I always wanted to do. It's what I get to do this. So I'm trying to remember that it's pretty great to travel the world with my best friends, even if sometimes it does get hard."

If they ever lose sight of that again, Simonett and the rest of the band now know that taking a year or two off won't mean the end of the road.

Top row, from left: Eamonn McLain, Erik Berry, Dave Carroll  
Bottom row: Dave Simonett, Tim Saxhaug, Ryan Young

Courtesy of All Eyes Media

## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

## Leon Bridges

Good Thing (Columbia Records)

Leon Bridges explores new musical dimensions on "Good Thing," updating the retro soul of his acclaimed debut with a fresher approach and more personal lyrics, all without eroding the smoothness of his sounds.

With its string section and impassioned vocals, '70s-style opening ballad "Bet Ain't Worth the Hard" allows for a smooth transition from "Coming Home," his Grammy-nominated first album, which musically placed Bridges somewhere in the mid '60s. "Bad Bad News," the first single, gracefully picks up the pace and comes rhythmically even closer to the present. It offers a booster shot to his confidence — "I made a good, good thing/Out of bad, bad news" — as well as the source of the album title.

At under 3 minutes and highlighted by falsetto oohs and aahs, "You Don't Know" sounds ripe for summer success. Bridges displays his strongest passion and fire on the album's closing tracks, not to be missed. There's no subtlety in the bluesy "Mrs.," which struggles to reconcile the emotional and physical aspects of a relationship, while the autobiographical "Georgia to Texas" is singer-songwriter jazz, with countermelodies and an illuminated saxophone solo by Jeff Dazezy.

Bridges' voice remains his biggest strength, but "Good Things" is proof positive that the rest of his artistry is fast catching up.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press



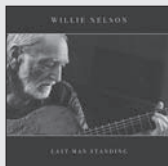
## Sting and Shaggy

44/876 (A&amp;M/Interscope)

So, Sting might have eschewed the punky-reggae that made him famous for more recent forays into albums of dumb children's rhymes, lame lute music, grey shipbuilding songs and sprightly straight-ahead rock (2017's "57th & 9th"). Apparently, though, he hasn't forgotten Jamaican music's influence altogether. Enter Shaggy, the pleasantly guttural, Kingston-born dancehall toaster and pop-reggae songster.

It isn't always pretty. Along with ham-handedly evoking "the ghost of Bob Marley that haunts me to this day" on the jittery title track, Sting all but confiscates "Wait in Vain" for the team's so-called original cut "Waiting for the Break of Day." Luckily, Sting is a lovely, pliable bassist who hasn't lost his sense of reggae's pernicious pulse, and his partner in rhyme is a sly and silly lyricist with sex on his mind. "To get your body was my goal / But you fit perfectly in the wifely role," bellows Shaggy on the woozily jazzy "22nd Street." On "Just One Lifetime," however, the twosome pull out all their happiest, most harmonious signature tricks — Sting's wobbly croon, Shaggy's growly leer — for a funny sort-of triumph.

— A.D. Amorosi  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



## Willie Nelson

Last Man Standing (Legacy)

"It's getting hard to watch my pals check out, it cuts like a worn-out knife," Willie Nelson sings on the title cut of Last Man Standing, which is either his 67th or 73rd studio album, depending on whom you ask. "One thing I've learned about running the road is 'forever' don't apply to life."

Like last year's "God's Problem Child," which also included all new songs co-written by producer Buddy Cannon (often with lyrics composed via text message), "Last Man Standing" contemplates mortality from a wry perspective. "I don't want to be the last man standing," Nelson, who turned 85 on April 29, sings. "On second thought, maybe I do."

With his road band augmented on a sprightly set of honky-tonk workouts and jazz-inflected ballads by studio ringers such as Alison Krauss (who sings and plays fiddle), Nelson remains a great sui generis singer and phrase-maker. He's up for adventure on the rollicking "Ready to Roar" and subtly suggests now is the time for political engagement on "Me and You"; "I had a friend I used to talk to, we used to both sit on the fence," the sage country singer sings. "But anymore I can't relate to him, 'cause he ain't got a lick of sense."

— Dan DeLuca  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



## Keith Urban

Graffiti U (Hit Red/Capitol Nashville)

Watch Keith Urban play guitar in concert and you see an artist transported by the music he makes.

Listen to Urban sing, though, and he seems more restrained, especially on his new album, "Graffiti U," and its equally eclectic predecessor, the hit-filled "Ripcord." That's not to say "Graffiti U" isn't well-crafted, though, or that his goal of weaving pop, rock and dance music into country isn't worthy.

The current single, "Coming Home," shows how it all works, with Urban sampling a bit of Merle Haggard's "Mama Tried" to put some twang in the dance groove. When Grammy-nominated pop singer-songwriter Julia Michaels joins in, it becomes a sweetly effective combination of styles. On "Never Comin' Down," Urban moves from funky verses to a banjo-picking, good-time chorus and even takes an Afrobeat detour in the bridge. The lovely "Same Heart" starts off with some icy electronics in the verses before warming up in the chorus.

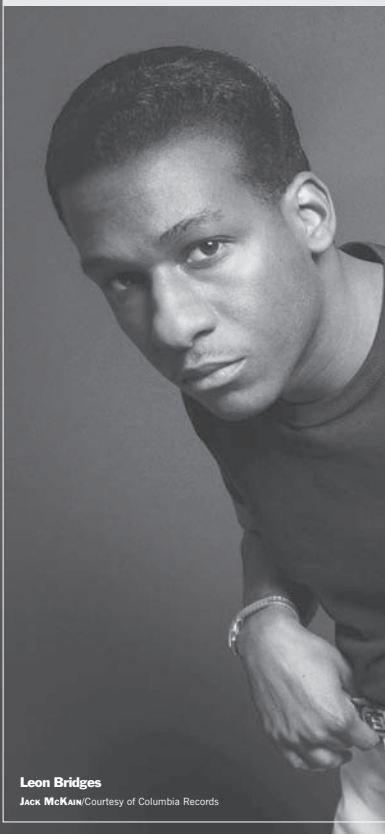
However, sometimes you can almost hear Urban's anxiety as he leaves his comfort zone. He seems like he's trying hard to keep up on "Way Too Long," struggling to hit notes in the poppier keys and tempos that co-writers Michaels and Nate Ruess usually use. On "Parallel Line," co-written by Michaels and Ed Sheeran, Urban seems wary of the sparseness of the song and fills all the space with countermelodies and echoing vocals that detract from the immediacy and rawness of Sheeran's best work. Similarly, the impact of Urban's #MeToo anthem "Female" is blunted by the torrent of images in the chorus while the stark verses made his point so powerfully.

Trying new things is admirable. But when Urban is on familiar ground, as he is on the future singalong "Steal My Thunder," he shows how far his experiments have to go to reach his usual stellar level.

— Glenn Gamboa  
Newsday

## Leon Bridges

Jack McKain/Courtesy of Columbia Records





## WEEKEND: BOOKS



Courtesy of Lindsay Hart

**"Hero at Home" was inspired by author Sarah Verardo's personal family journey: having three young daughters — Mary Scott, from left, Elizabeth and Grace — and her husband Mike, center, who lost two limbs and suffered traumatic brain injuries while serving in Afghanistan.**

# Defending her husband's dignity

Wife of wounded veteran wrote 'Hero at Home' to explain amputations, injuries to children

BY ALLISON KLEIN  
The Washington Post

Grace Verardo, 3, came home one day from preschool and told her mother: "Someone said Daddy is gross."

Sarah Verardo spun into action. Her husband's war injuries were having a broader effect on her children than she had realized. Mike Verardo is a double amputee, but Grace had always known him simply as a "handsome hero."

"I realized I needed to give them the tools to deal with what I've already been dealing with for years — the stares, the questions," Sarah Verardo, 33, said about her three daughters, who are 3, 2 and 9 months old.

So she wrote and self-published a children's book, "Hero at Home," about a veteran who has a prosthetic leg, a wounded arm and a brain injury that sometimes causes him to put his "keys in the fridge and milk in the closet."

Her audience, she said, was her children, their classmates and people around the world who want to better understand veterans with severe war injuries.

"I'm his caregiver and case manager, but the most important thing I do is keep his dignity and my children's dignity. That was being challenged," she said. "I wanted to explain to people: This is what it's like to live with war."

Mike Verardo, 33, was an Army infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division when he was hit by an improvised explosive device in southern Afghanistan in 2010. He was knocked unconscious and



**'I realized I needed to give them (her young daughters) the tools to deal with what I've already been dealing with for years — the stares, the questions.'**

**Sarah Verardo**  
on writing "Hero at Home"

badly bruised, but his injuries were mostly to his head.

A few days later, feeling fit for duty, he decided to return to his unit rather than go home to recuperate. Two weeks after that, he was struck by another explosive device. This time, it took off his left leg and arm and burned 30 percent of his body.

The injuries to his body and brain were so extensive that he was not expected to live.

The attack occurred April 24, 2010, meaning Matt recently observed his eighth "Alive Day," a day some veterans celebrate to mark surviving an attack that almost killed them. At the time of the attack, Sarah and Mike Verardo were dating. They got married three years later. The following year, Grace was born. Shortly after, their other two daughters came along. Sarah Verardo said their lives are not easy, but "our blessings far outweigh our burdens." They live outside Charlotte, N.C.

Proceeds from the book go to the Independence Fund, a nonprofit that helps severely wounded veterans and their

families. The fund helps fill unmet veterans' needs through caregiver and advocacy programs, said Sarah Verardo, who is the group's executive director.

At the beginning of her book, illustrated by Inna Eckman, readers are introduced to Grace, her father and the war that left him wounded.

"This is Grace's dad. ... He was sent to Afghanistan to protect America and was wounded in action while fighting for our country. ... He wears a special leg that looks like it belongs on a robot. His arms were rebuilt with lots of tools," it reads.

Then it shows a drawing of Grace on her dad's shoulders as he walks with a prosthetic leg and a red cape. There's also a scene of him on an all-terrain wheelchair at the beach with Grace's sisters on his lap.

The next page is a critical one, because it says something that Sarah Verardo said many people don't understand: "Grace's dad is still working hard to get better."

Mike Verardo has had more than 100 surgeries, with more in his future. Since December, he hasn't been able to wear his

prosthetic leg because he had a surgery and his wound is still healing. His left arm was reconstructed for aesthetics but is paralyzed. His traumatic brain injuries prevent him from functioning fully in daily life and holding a job.

The idea of ongoing recovery is something Sarah Verardo said she is constantly explaining to people.

"People will say, 'Did the VA not buy you a leg?' or 'I know an amputee who ran a marathon,'" she said. "Mike has a very complicated medical case and a severe traumatic brain injury. He's one of the most severely wounded veterans from the war. This is something we will deal with for the rest of his life."

She said her husband, who has a shy personality and turns from the spotlight, is happy with the book and its empowering message. One page shows him at Arlington National Cemetery saluting the headstones for three close friends killed in Afghanistan.

While the Verardos' lives are not easy, they feel lucky that he came home from the war alive, even if his body is different.

"Grace's daddy tells her that sometimes people get hurt and their bodies change," reads the book. "But they still have the same heart."

Sarah Verardo said her kids love the book as well. When Grace first saw it, her mother recounts, she said, "This is the book about me and Daddy!" And she wants to show it to all her friends.

"She proudly tells everybody her daddy fought the bad guys and he won," Verardo said.

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**“Paterno”:** Even a very familiar story can be interesting with the right casting, as is the case with this HBO original film. Al Pacino turns in one of the best performances of his career playing legendary Penn State football coach Joe Paterno. It's his work that drives the story, which had been played out so completely in the press in 2011. Pacino plays Paterno during the aftermath of his assistant coach Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse scandal. After becoming the winningest coach in college football history, Paterno must find a way to deal with how these horrible events were taking place without his knowledge. It is the story of a how a person can be so blinded by their professional passions that they miss the obvious. The film was co-written and directed by Barry Levinson, who makes the production work not because it is a rehashing of the familiar elements surrounding the case, but because the tale unfolds through Paterno's viewpoint. It's a powerful story of a man whose amazing professional legacy comes under fire. And Levinson gets the perfect performance he needed from Pacino to do that. “Paterno” will be available for digital download starting May 7.

**“Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In: The Complete Fourth Season”:** Even for those who lived through the 1960s, many of the political jokes in this free-form comedy series will seem very dated. But the core strength of the show reaches any generation as the series embraces slapstick humor with a passion. Hosted by Dan Rowan and wisecracking co-host Dick Martin, “Laugh-In” goes for laughs through a barrage of skits and jokes that are edited together at a rapid pace. And the humor is always on the absurdist level such as having Sammy Davis Jr. and Wilt Chamberlain in a boxing match. Other sketches include Art Carney as the Masked Lobster looking for work and Ernestine (Lily Tomlin) ringing up Aristotle Onassis and Gore Vidal. The NBC comedy also features some of the biggest stars of the era including William F. Buckley, Truman Capote, Johnny Carson, Carol Channing, Tim Conway, Bing Crosby, Phyllis Diller, David Frost and Orson Welles. Along with all the laughs and star power come bonus features that include interviews with Lily Tomlin and Arte Johnson.



Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan in “Fifty Shades Freed.”

Also available on DVD: “Fifty Shades Freed”: The film series sparked by E.L. James' book trilogy reaches the final chapter. Dakota Johnson stars.

**“Saving Private Ryan”:** The Tom Hanks film is being released on 4K Ultra HD/Blu-ray to mark the 20th anniversary.

**“Human Flow”:** A year in the life of refugees is documented by director Ai Weiwei.

**“Paradox”:** Hong Kong police officer Lee (Louis Koo) goes on a search in Thailand for his missing daughter Chi (Hanna Chan).

**“The House That Dripped Blood”:** Scotland Yard inspector's search for a missing film star leads him to a haunted house.

**“Dear White People: Season 1”:** A diverse group of students of color navigate a predominantly white Ivy League college.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

# CHARMED ROLE

## Job has been a fairy tale for actor Andrew J. West

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

Once upon a time, Andrew J. West landed what would have been a great role for any actor if it only provided half the amount of material to play. But the Indiana native feels doubly blessed because not only has he had the modern elements to play in ABC's “Once Upon a Time,” he's also had the opportunity to deal with events in a magical fairy tale world.

“It's a dream come true for an actor,” West says. “A lot of the actors on the show essentially get to play two different characters or three or four. I feel like I get to do that with Henry because we see such a different version of Henry in Fairytale Land than we do in the real world.”

“It's fun to get to step into that. In Fairytale Land there is this optimistic confidence we often get to see with Henry that is fun to play. In the real world, there's a cynical vibe to him. He's a little more down and out. To get to tap into those two different aspects of the character — in the two different worlds he is in — is a dream.”

That's the world West has been living in this season after “Once Upon a Time” went through a major overhaul going into this year. During the first six seasons, Henry Mills was only a youngster as played by Jared Gilmore. The reset this season made Mills an adult with no knowledge of his family or former friends. How all that will play out will be revealed through the final episodes leading up to the series finale of “Once Upon a Time.”

“Once Upon a Time” creators and executive producers Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz released an official statement in regards to the show coming to an end. They thanked the fans for their support through all seven seasons. Those fans came back despite most of the original cast having left. The series shifted from Storybrooke, Maine, to the cursed Seattle neighborhood of Hypertown Heights. Original cast members who returned included Lana Parrilla as Regina/Roni, Robert Carlyle as Rumpelstiltskin/Weaver and Colin O'Donoghue as Hook/Rogers.

The character of Henry

Andrew J. West stars as Henry Mills on “Once Upon a Time.” The show airs Sundays on AFN-Pulse.

ABC



remained, but in the older form, creating the need to recast. Taking on a role that had been played for several years by another actor is challenging because there must be enough in the performance to keep continuity with the character, but leave room for the new actor to put a new spin on the role.

“I was concerned about it and a little intimidated because this actor had played the role for six years,” West says. “But the writers and producers have done an amazing job re-creating this character. I can bring my own spin, but it is really them who have taken the show in a new direction.”

Unlike the beginning of this season, there will be no reset. West will no longer get to work in a world where there have been days that have given him some of the best acting experiences of his career.

“There are days when I have the costume and the cape on and I am running through the woods where I feel like a little kid again.”

This is the fantasy of what my 8-year-old self would believe my professional life would be,” West said.

“Once Upon a Time” is just the latest television work for West, who started his onscreen career playing the young Christian Troy in the FX show “Nip/Tuck.” That was followed by simultaneous recurring roles on “Greek” and “Privileged,” plus guest-starring spots on “Bones,” “CSI: NY,” “Ghost Whisperer,” “Castle” and “Body of Proof.” He also landed the lead in the web series “Rockville, CA.” His film credits include “Antiques” and “The Middle Man.”

Out of all his credits, “Once Upon a Time” felt the closest to West because when he was growing up, everything from Greek mythology to fairy tales to comic books spoke to him. The Disney animated film “Sword in the Stone” was one of his favorites.

“I remember when I got this job, I realized I was about to take part in something that is storytelling in its pure form. Which is something I've always wanted to do,” West says. “As an actor, wanting to be an actor since I was a young child. I have always wanted to be involved in the storytelling.”

“Once Upon a Time” is just pure storytelling. It's pure magic. It's the type of storytelling that speaks to the kid in all of us.”

“There are days when I have the costume and the cape on and I am running through the woods where I feel like a little kid again. This is the fantasy of what my 8-year-old self would believe my professional life would be.”

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



## FOR ENDURANCE ENTHUSIASTS

## Obstacle course racing chases mainstream

BY JAKE SEINER  
Associated Press

On a concourse down Citi Field's first-base line, weekend warriors of all shapes and sizes scaled a roughly 20-foot-tall cargo net, flipped over the top of the A-shaped structure and crawled down the other side.

In the left field grandstands, they carried heavy bags of sand up and down the stadium stairs. On the warning track in center field, they scaled 7-foot walls and slammed medicine balls into the dirt. And behind home plate, they emerged sweat-drenched and smiling from a clustered gantlet of punching bags, jogged through the finish line and had medals placed around their necks.

"Every time I come to one of these, it always tests your limits," said Matt Judson, one of more than 10,000 Spartan racers who maneuvered the course that day.

That's just what Spartan Race founder and CEO Joe De Sena had in mind when he put on the company's first race in 2007. De Sena didn't invent obstacle course racing, but he has helped bring it to the mainstream. Spartan has attracted more than five million participants and will run races in more than 30 countries this year, and De Sena is eyeing further growth, setting a goal of 100 million participants and entry into the Olympics.

Spartan holds more than 200 races annually. There are dozens of races slated throughout Europe, and even Mongolia and Thailand will stage events on this year's circuit. Other similar brands, like Tough Mudder, Rugged Maniac and Warrior Dash, are increasingly pulling people off the couch, too.

It's an industry that's boomed over the past eight years. This level of participation was unthinkable when De Sena first

encountered obstacle course racing in the mid-1990s. What he found then was a niche community and "a very disorganized industry." He estimates 20,000-30,000 people globally were involved.

"In the mid-90s and 2000s, there was a specific kind of adventurous person taking a stab at a race like that," De Sena said. "It was a small community."

The shift came around 2010. Soldiers returning from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq sought weekend activities more extreme than beer league softball. CrossFit and other workout programs were encouraging a generation of people eager for outlandish ways to test their fitness. And social media was making it easier than ever to get the word out.

"There's not much more needed than an image or a short video to get people interested," De Sena said. "It just happened. Grandmothers, kids, everybody was attracted to this thing."

The crowd at Citi Field was all over the map — gym rats bounding 7-foot walls with ease, people with average builds casually chatting with friends as they walked between stations, and some left gasping for air between sets of burpees. The races are difficult for everybody, but even people with below-average fitness can make it to the finish line. That level of accessibility has made obstacle racing an increasingly popular team-building experience for companies.

At Citi Field, Janet Filipow helped organize a 23-person group of employees from Konica Minolta's New York headquarters. The company encourages out-of-office bonding by putting together volunteer outings and a weekly circuit training class, but the Spartan Races created a different vibe. It's just about the hardest thing Filipow could reasonably encourage her coworkers to try, and getting everyone



Clockwise from top left: A contestant climbs a rope during the Spartan Race event, in New York City on April 21; members of team Moveable Ink jump over the first obstacle of the course; Brenda Toto, of Milford, Conn., poses with her medal after completing the sprint; participants run up stairs on all fours.

PHOTOS BY MARY ALTAFER/AP



through the course creates a different sort of connection.

"A couple people that had signed up were like, 'I've never done one. I don't know if I can do it,'" Filipow said. "They came back and were like, 'I did it!'"

Konica Minolta brought employees ranging from 21 to 60 years old with varying levels of fitness. Amanda Hansen, 35, runs 8-12 miles per week and felt pretty good at the end of the course. Her husband, John Hansen, struggled with all the stairs.

"I didn't train at all, and it was the dumbest thing I probably ever did," he said.

Even though the course whipped him, John was already planning to do another race.

"Just the adrenaline," he said. "Your heart gets going, you just want to finish. You just want to finish that race and say, 'I did it.'"

De Sena knows that's the way to get people hooked — put obstacle racing on

their radar and get them on the course, and they'll keep coming back. Making that initial connection is the key, and Spartan is working many avenues to raise awareness of the sport. It does well on social media, through word-of-mouth, and it even has a show on NBC — Spartan Ultimate Team Challenge.

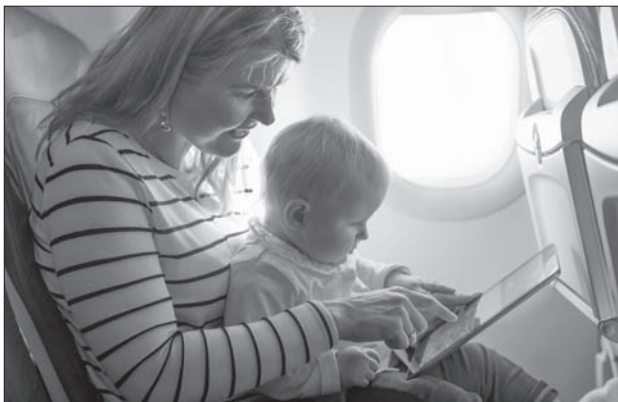
But one platform in particular could be crucial to helping De Sena reach his 100-million person goal: the Olympics.

De Sena helped launch the International Obstacle Racing Federation — now known as the World OCR — in 2014. The federation is working with more than 60 countries and expects to reach 75 by the end of 2019, a key threshold in lobbying for Olympic status. De Sena hopes the sport can break through for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

"I think we'd be really good for the Olympics," De Sena said. "We have such a giant audience."



## WEEKEND: FAMILY



KASPARS GRINVALDS, DREAMSTIME/TNS

Experts say the safest place for a child on an airplane is in a safety seat and not on a lap.

# Safe flights for the smallest

## Airline incidents have parents reconsidering lap child policy

By MARI A. SCHAEFER  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

**W**hen booking flights for family vacations, many parents of infants and toddlers will do the opposite of what international and domestic airline regulatory agencies, transportation safety agencies and many safety experts recommend.

They will plan to hold their children in their laps, unrestrained.

But if anything should reinforce the need for child restraint seats on airplanes, the recent emergency landing of Southwest Flight 1380 should, said Jan Brown, a former flight attendant who survived the 1989 crash landing of Philadelphia-bound United Flight 232, which killed 111 passengers in Sioux City, Iowa.

Last month, metal fragments from an exploding engine shot into the Southwest plane, which was cruising at 32,500 feet. The force from the dramatic change in cabin pressure partially sucked passenger Jennifer RJordan, 43, headfirst through a broken window. RJordan, who had been wearing a seat belt, died from blunt trauma to her head, neck and torso. The plane, on a scheduled flight from New York to Dallas, made an emergency landing at Philadelphia International Airport.

"If there had been a lap child anywhere in the area, that lap child would have gone out that window," said Brown, 77, in a phone interview from her Chicago-area home.

For 28 years, Brown has been fighting to make child restraint seats mandatory on all flights but has seen little support from the airline industry.

In 1989, Brown was working on a DC-10 airplane carrying 285 passengers when a broken fan blade in a rear engine disintegrated, causing

a catastrophic engine failure. When it came time to land the crippled aircraft, flight attendants instructed passengers to adopt the crash position. Four parents, including Sylvia Tsao, were instructed to put their lap children on the floor, the protocol at the time.

Tsao's 22-month-old son, Evan, got separated from his mother as the plane somersaulted down the runway. He died of smoke inhalation, according to reports from the National Transportation Safety Board.

"Everybody in my area survived," Brown said. "If he had been in a seat, he would have survived."

**'If there had been a lap child anywhere in the area, that lap child would have gone out that window.'**

Jan Brown

former flight attendant, commenting on last month's broken window emergency on a Southwest Airlines plane

What upsets Brown most is that parents are given a false impression of safety by the fact that children under 2 are allowed to fly free and unrestrained.

While the Federal Aviation Administration, NTSB, International Civil Aviation Organization and most airlines, including Southwest, strongly recommend that infants and small children be secured in a proper safety seat, none require it.

Families generally decide to carry children instead of buy them their own seats because of the cost of another seat, said Flaura Koplin Winston, director of the Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

What a lot of parents don't realize is that a child who doesn't have a dedicated airline seat also doesn't have a dedicated oxygen mask, she said.

Flying, however, is still far safer than driving — a far more common mode of transportation than air travel, especially for kids. Though safety seats are mandated in cars, the leading cause of death for children is motor-vehicle accidents, she said.

One alternative to hauling a cumbersome child restraint seat through airport security and onto a plane is a harnesslike restraint, called CARES. The restraint, made by AmSafe, a manufacturer of safety restraint products, is FAA-approved for children weighing 22 to 44 pounds.

"We believe that the safest place for a child under the age of 2 is in its own car seat, strapped in," said Taylor Garland, spokeswoman for the Association of Flight Attendants. That group has maintained that position since the United crash in 1989, she said.

Garland said the organization is working with ICAO to improve safety standards for child restraint seats across the globe. So far, no country mandates their use on airplanes, she said.

Garland pointed to Emma Tourtellotte, whose life likely was saved by a child safety seat. After the 1997 engine explosion of Delta Air Lines Flight 1288, debris flew through the fuselage into the cabin, killing two passengers. A section of the plane's paneling hit the wings of Tourtellotte's child seat.

David Tourtellotte, the child's father, testified in a 1997 congressional hearing that he initially balked at wife Kathleen's wish to buy an extra seat.

"I thank the Lord that I had the good sense to listen to Kathleen," Tourtellotte testified. "Otherwise we might not have Emma with us today."

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Surviving spouses need suicide 'postvention' help

**E**very time I hear the gut-wrenching statistic that 20 military veterans commit suicide every day, my throat catches. The shocking reality that more lives have been lost to veteran suicide in the past 15 years than in the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan is an obvious tragedy that finally has the attention of the Pentagon, lawmakers, health professionals and the public at large. Prevention of veteran suicide is a hot-button issue.

But sadly, it's the surviving spouses who are ignored now.

A significant number of veteran suicides involve victims who are married. In fact, as reported earlier this year, married veterans are at a higher risk of suicide than single veterans, likely due to the increased responsibilities they face upon returning home from service. When married veterans take their own lives, spouses are left to handle those responsibilities alone, while struggling to process grief.

When this process becomes complicated with guilt and post-traumatic stress, spouses often become "stuck" in grief, unable to move forward from the tragedy. Relationships soon fall apart, substances are sometimes abused, and day-to-day tasks become overwhelming. These military spouses are the forgotten victims of veteran suicides.

However, Boston's Home Base Veteran and Family Care center has partnered with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to offer surviving spouses from all over the United States intensive suicide "postvention" treatment that seems to be working. The "Intensive Outpatient Program for Survivors" (IOPS) offers transportation, lodging, meals, childcare stipends and treatment at no cost to participants.

The two-week pilot took place last July, and the second group of surviving spouses graduated from IOPS on April 13. Although in the future, IOPS will be open to all surviving family members who have experienced the traumatic loss of a military veteran family member, the initial groups consisted of widowed spouses of military veterans who committed suicide. Their ages ranged from late 20s to early 50s, and they were seeking treatment from 11 months to 11 years after the suicides. The majority had children. Tragically, all of the widows in IOPS were present when their spouses committed suicide, or were the first to find them after their deaths.

IOPS is the first program to combine treatment for PTSD and complicated grief for family survivors of military suicide in the U.S., and offers participants daily therapy for complicated grief, coping skills training, peer support and post-therapy follow-up.

"The most common thing we see is spouses with questions like, 'What could I have done? What should I have done? What did I not pick up on? Could I have prevented this?'" said Dr. Louis Chow, Home Base Director of Education. "The amount of guilt and unresolved questions can be quite profound."

Dr. Chow and Dr. Lauren Richards, both Home Base psychologists, teach spouses to process grief by identifying and regulating their emotions, rationally examining their feelings of guilt, and learning to ask for help. The primary goal of the IOPC Skills Group is not to alleviate grief but rather lift the obstacles to processing it.

Dr. Bonnie Ohye, clinical psychologist and Home Base Director of Family Programs, said follow-up data from the IOPC pilot showed significant reduction in symptoms, with positive feedback from all participants.

However, the future of the program remains uncertain because Home Base covers the costs of the IOPCs internally. "This is not a sustainable business model," Dr. Ohye said. On July 28 at Fenway Park, Home Base will host a charity run and a Rex Sox vs. Minnesota Twins pregame ceremony to honor the sacrifices of surviving military families. Home Base hopes that the event will not only raise money for its programs, but will also increase awareness of the need to offer treatment to the families of fallen veterans.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

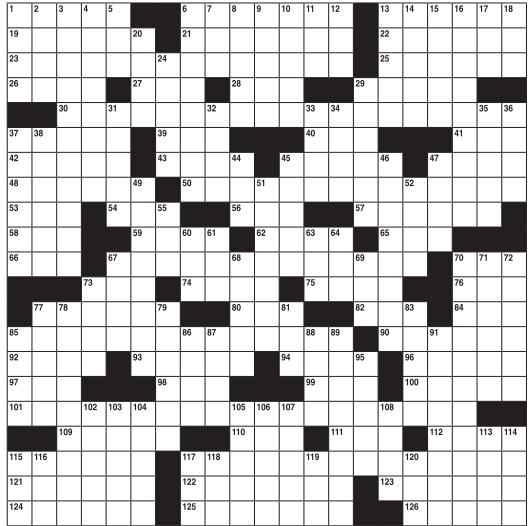
# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### LET'S PLAY TWO!

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Perpendicular to the ship's middle
- 6 "Let's do this!"
- 13 Larger of Mars's two moons
- 19 Proof of purchase for some contests
- 21 Maines of the Dixie Chicks
- 22 Out of date?
- 23 *Underwater mine?*
- 25 Some end-of-season announcements
- 26 \_\_\_ Plus (grooming brand)
- 27 "Insecure" star Issa
- 28 Comparison middle
- 29 Peaceful protest
- 30 *Get a copy of a 1965 #1 Beatles hit?*
- 37 South America's \_\_\_ Pichu
- 39 Left-winger
- 40 U.N. worker protection agency
- 41 "\_\_\_ Music's golden tongue / Flatter'd to tears this aged man ...": Keats
- 42 Actor Milo
- 43 Minute Maid Park player, informally
- 45 Formed for a particular purpose
- 47 Sultan Qaboos's land
- 48 Something to be defended
- 50 *Rather poor ambassador's skill?*
- 53 School in development?
- 54 Hat, informally
- 56 Bomb with the audience
- 57 Brand with an arrow through its logo
- 58 Grp., getting a pay cut?
- 59 "Roll Tide!" school, for short
- 62 Rolled \_\_\_
- 65 Prefix with warrior
- 66 Formerly known as
- 67 *Reason a computer program wouldn't open?*
- 70 Some touchdown scores, for short
- 73 Zippo
- 74 "Am \_\_\_ sensitive?"
- 75 Existed
- 76 Thanksgiving serving
- 77 Things folded in the kitchen
- 80 "Cinderella" mouse
- 82 Big-eared animal
- 84 Past
- 85 *Incredibly hard puzzle?*
- 90 One with a confession to make
- 92 Consume
- 93 Responds wistfully
- 94 First name in fashion
- 96 Impressive hole
- 97 "\_\_\_ reconsidered"
- 98 Padre's hermano
- 99 Prefix with pressure
- 100 "Eww!"
- 101 *Link a quartet of supermarket employees?*
- 109 Aid for a tracking shot
- 110 Jumpy sort, for short?
- 111 Vehicle that often rolls over, in brief
- 112 \_\_\_ mater
- 115 Angry Shakespearean cry
- 117 *Something you're not allowed to do in math?*
- 121 Mistakes
- 122 Bit of nonsense in a No. 1 Ella Fitzgerald hit
- 123 Not ruling out
- 124 Gadget for lemons
- 125 Goes back and forth (with)
- 126 A cylinder has two
- DOWN**
- 1 Band with a symmetrical logo
- 2 Bath toy
- 3 Pizzeria order
- 4 Some lawyers' cases
- 5 Kind of biol.
- 6 Picks up later in life?
- 7 Red \_\_\_ (sushi fish)
- 8 Irish icon, for short
- 9 Ankle bones
- 10 Relating to the pelvis
- 11 Prefix with communication
- 12 Hair-raising cry
- 13 Pigtail, e.g.
- 14 Many a "... For Dummies" book
- 15 Transmitting
- 16 Comic who acted in "Ocean's Eleven"
- 17 Smelling of mothballs
- 18 Part of O.S.: Abbe
- 20 Original home of Paddington Bear
- 24 Moves effortlessly (through)
- 29 Streetside hangouts
- 31 Draw back in fear
- 32 River that rises in the Cantabrian Mountains
- 33 Player-coach Jason of the N.B.A.
- 34 K-12
- 35 Constellation between Ursa Major and Ursa Minor
- 36 Kids' rhyme starter
- 37 Big name in pain relief
- 38 Onto land
- 44 Code on a bag to Chicago
- 45 Annually
- 46 Like a space cadet
- 47 1847 novel of the sea
- 49 "Finlandia" composer
- 51 Rollickingly funny
- 52 "Time was ..."
- 55 Feature of a milpond
- 60 "You couldn't possibly mean me!"
- 61 Oil field?
- 63 Kind of job
- 64 \_\_\_ Bird, 10-time W.N.B.A. All-Star
- 67 Bite-size, say
- 68 Teaching positions can be part of their work
- 69 Chest protector
- 70 "La La Land" actor
- 71 Rolls out of bed in the morning?
- 72 Messy treats
- 73 Fluorine's atomic number
- 77 "Way to go!"
- 78 Purple flowers
- 79 Longtime Walter Berndt comic strip
- 81 Spot for wallowing
- 83 All-out attack
- 85 Stylish
- 86 Cry at a happy hour, maybe
- 87 Cry of excitement
- 88 "Well, Did You \_\_\_?"
- 89 Gate
- 91 Did some documentary work
- 95 Bolivian capital
- 102 0%, in the dairy aisle
- 103 Highest-level
- 104 Nice forecast
- 105 Population classification
- 106 Settle down for the night
- 107 Sam who sang "Twistin' the Night Away"
- 108 Corn syrup brand
- 113 Tiny bit
- 114 They always come with mayo
- 115 Flat-topped hat
- 116 Heat
- 117 Keyboard key
- 118 \_\_\_ minimum
- 119 Anthem contraction
- 120 One rampaging in 2018's "Rampage"

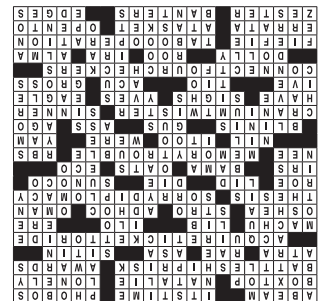


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## FACES

# Spears says stage persona is 'healthy' way to combat shyness

By ALICIA RANCILLO  
Associated Press

If you thought the workout videos Britney Spears recently posted on social media looked grueling, the pop superstar confirms that they were—even if she and her trainer boyfriend made it look easy.

Spears and Sam Asghari went through intricate movements, including Asghari lifting Spears several times and Spears doing a headstand—and it seemed effortless. But in reality, Spears says he put her through it.

"He's a trainer, so everything has to be so perfect. We probably did 40 (takes), and I hurt myself," she joked in an interview with The Associated Press. "It looked great, he did a good job and he edited it really, really well."

She said she'll often tap her oldest son, Sean Preston, to shoot her videos and photos for social media, and those are usually in one take.

"With (Sam), I did it a million times and I swear it was horrible, but when I do it just with my kids, it's really fast," she said.

Spears said she prefers challenging workouts because she has "always been an active person" and gets bored easily. She plans to ramp up those exercises as she prepares to return to touring with the Piece of Me tour, sponsored by Pepsi. She'll also be one of the superstars included in the Pepsi Generations summer campaign where the company will reissue retro cans featuring acts that have participated in earlier campaigns.

Spears' tour takes her Las Vegas residency and the road and will be the last opportunity for fans to see that show. She'll perform dates across North America and Europe. It kicks off July 12 in Washington, D.C.

Spears said she looks forward to getting back onstage because it helps bring her out of her shell.



## Performing is 'A BOOST TO MY CONFIDENCE'

"I'm very sensitive and sometimes I just want to run away because I'm a very shy person," she said in a phone interview Wednesday. "I think energy is contagious and when I get onstage with the dancers, we all kind of vibe off each other. We feel the same energy and we connect."

Watching Spears perform, it might be difficult to imagine that she might not be outgoing, but she said she has a stage persona that takes over in front of an au-

dience. "I think it's healthy to be able to put on the persona of being confident," said Spears, who also said she's on a kick of reading self-help books.

"I think it's an escape because honestly with how shy I really am, I don't think it's healthy," she said. Performing is "a boost to my confidence. It's like an alter-ego type thing. Something clicks, and I go and turn into this different person. I think it's kind of a gift to be able to do that."

## Internal review: NBC News didn't know of any sexual harassment involving Matt Lauer before firing

NBC News management was unaware of any incidents involving former "Today" co-anchor Matt Lauer before four women came forward with accusations of sexual harassment against him in November, according to an internal review whose findings were released Wednesday.

Lauer was fired Nov. 29 after a female employee complained to NBC's human resources department that the NBC News star had engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace with her on several occasions in 2014.

After his firing, three other women came forward with allegations involving Lauer that they said occurred between 2000 and 2007.

But the review, conducted by legal counsel at NBCUniversal with the assistance of two outside law firms, determined that before November, there had never been a complaint to management or human resources regarding the former anchor, who had worked at the network for 27 years.

Two of the four women who complained about Lauer said his former bosses at NBC News were aware of his behavior. Those executives and producers, who are not named in the investigation, denied any such knowledge, and investigators were unable to substantiate the claims, the report said.

"We were also unable to establish that any of those interviewed, including NBC News and 'Today' leadership, News HR and others in the position of authority in the news division, knew that Lauer had engaged in sexual activity with other employees," the report stated. "Every such individual credibly responded that they had no such knowledge."

## Spotify cuts R. Kelly music from playlists, cites policy

Spotify has removed R. Kelly's music from its playlists, citing its new policy on hate content and hateful conduct.

A spokesperson said Thursday that Kelly's music is no longer available on the streaming service's owned and operated playlists and algorithmic recommendations. His music will still be available, but Spotify will not actually promote it.

The new policy defines hateful conduct as "something that is especially harmful or hateful," such as violence against children and sexual violence.

Spotify says it doesn't censor content because of an artist's behavior. But the service wants programs to "reflect" its values. It says when an artist does something harmful or hateful, it might affect the ways it works with the artist.

Kelly has long been the target of sexual misconduct allegations, which he has denied.

Kelly's representative didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

## Other news

■ The Fred Rogers drama "You Are My Friend" starring Tom Hanks as the beloved television host is coming to theaters in late 2019. Sony Pictures said Wednesday that the film will be released Oct. 18, 2019. The story is inspired by the real-life friendship between Rogers and journalist Tom Junod.

■ Sheryl Crow and Common are among the artists and executives on the Recording Academy's new task force on inclusion and diversity. The academy announced the team's 16 members — 13 of whom are women — in a statement Wednesday.

■ "Love & Hip Hop" star Teairra Mari says she'll be in the way of justice after intimate photos of her surfaced online.

■ An unidentified woman claims singer Chris Brown trapped her in a bedroom of his Los Angeles mansion during a drug-fueled orgy last year — and that one of his friends repeatedly raped her. In a sexual battery and gender violence lawsuit filed Wednesday, the woman claims Brown orchestrated the horrific assault. The woman says she stated out loud that she wanted to leave and would not consent to any sex.

From wire reports

Britney Spears — at the GLAAD Media Awards last month — is taking her act to North American and Europe this summer with her Piece of Me world tour. The first show is July 12.

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

## 'Get Out' writer and director announces new movie

From wire reports

He's baaaaaack.

Jordan Peele announced his new movie Tuesday, his first since the Oscar-winning "Get Out."

The director failed to give any information about his new project, titled "Us," but shared the poster on Twitter: a pair of heads in smoky black against a dirty white background.

"A new nightmare," the description reads.

Lupita Nyong'o ("Black Panther"), Elisabeth Moss ("The Handmaid's Tale") and Winston Duke ("Black Panther") are all circling roles in the film, ac-

## FILM NEWS

According to Variety.

Peele signed a first-look deal with Universal last May, just after the wild success of "Get Out," which opened No. 1 at the domestic box office and grossed an eventual \$255 million worldwide.

"Get Out" earned a Best Picture Oscar nomination — one of just a few horror films to do so — while Peele became just the third person to be nominated for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay in their directorial debut.

"Us" is set for a March 15 release.

## Cannes: Chastain, Nyong'o promote female-led spy film

At last year's Cannes Film Festival, Jessica Chastain noticed the paucity of female-led action films at the movie marketplace. This year, she brought a corrective. On Thursday, Chastain and her co-stars promoted plans for "355," a James Bond-like spy thriller led by female stars. Along with Chastain, the film is to star Marion Cotillard, Lupita Nyong'o, Penelope Cruz and Fan Bingbing. "355," which has franchise aspirations, is one of the hottest properties at Cannes.



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## OPINION

## When backing #MeToo in public means nothing

By ANA MARIE COX  
Special to The Washington Post

Former New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is only the latest ally of feminists to turn out to be an accused abuser as well. In recent weeks, we've also learned of a prominent liberal tech consultant, Clay Johnson, whose career was not at all derailed by rape allegations and sexist verbal abuse. Multiple women have accused MacArthur "genius grant" winner Junot Diaz, a rape survivor, of actions ranging from unwanted kisses to rageful outbursts. Rep. Tony Cardenas, D-Calif., is facing an ethics investigation for allegedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl.

I repeat these examples (with the knowledge that every step backward in time would add to the list) not to highlight any particularly egregious irony but to underscore the uselessness of trying to segregate sexism, and sexual violence, by ideology.

There is no ideological monopoly on misogyny or patriarchy or sexual harm, a fact that the cool war won't guarantee we will have experience. I'm not so naive as to believe a man's voting record is going to be predictive of his potential for violence. That he seems to go to the same rallies as I doesn't mean he won't draw me into an inappropriate conversation. The cool bumper stickers on the car won't guarantee my safety if he drives slowly by while I'm on my run. And whenever I hear about the latest political comrade or colleague to be the subject of other women's stories, I am never surprised when his actions do not match up with his ideals. When the difference is great, I am only disappointed. Surprise is the privilege of someone who has never been assaulted by someone they know.

So I suspect it is mostly men who are fascinated by the overblown irony in anyone's

descent from hero of the #MeToo movement to a culprit caught up in its rough justice. On the right, this fascination has taken the form of mainly resurrecting the left's unfortunately quasi-romantic swoons over Schneiderman (see the coverage of a Samantha Bee segment literally engaging in Schneiderman hero-worship). But the liberal left has its set of those who want to revisit these falls from grace, as well.

Schneiderman's fall was particularly steep, and the details of his story have provided political enemies with irresistible opportunities for Schadenfreude. But rather than draw some broad lesson about hypocrisy, the specific tragedy surrounding Schneiderman suggests that those who are serious about ending sexual violence start looking in the mirror.

When Schneiderman (or any other man in his situation, with his record) was "really" the #Resistance warrior he appeared to be or "really" a hateful thug isn't as important as the fact that he could be both of these things at the same time. How he managed to contain and sustain these opposites isn't as important as how he protected himself against allegations of sexual violence afforded by having the "right" political attitudes is not something granted by the attitudes themselves, but by the people who share them. Believing that women should get equal pay for equal work or be able to make their own reproductive choices or exercise their right to vote against domestic violence can't stop a man from raising his hand against his partner behind closed doors. But progressives believing

that any one man's work is more important than the marks he makes on a woman's body can keep us from taking action.

That Schneiderman's former romantic partners say he engaged in abusive behavior primarily under the influence of drugs or alcohol (the same is true for Johnson) should force progressive-minded men and women into urgent self-reflection. It suggests that the right set of circumstances can undo the inhibitions of even the most strident supporter of the #MeToo agenda. Just as political position can't insulate against accusation, beliefs won't necessarily restrain behavior. Anyone who truly wants #MeToo to expand should be prepared to examine his or her own past with the same degree of rigor that journalists have used to examine household names.

Obviously, not all men or women — allies of the movement — men or women — have committed sins on the scale of what Schneiderman is accused of. But many of us have been guilty of enabling those sins in the name of ambitions both large and small. We are the people who told Schneiderman, "It's not your job, jerk, and keep reporting until someone listens."

The individual transgressions of these would-be confederates are the product of personal choices and perhaps even genuine sickness, the individual consequences of which deserve individual redress and apology. But the more general public scrutiny is the context in which such behavior continued for so long.

Ana Marie Cox is the host of "Crooked Media's "With Friends Like These."

## Tuesday was good for both parties' establishments

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF  
The Dallas Morning News

Insurgent candidates make a lot of noise. But their ability to appeal to the most rabid members of their parties often proves a poor prescription for winning general elections.

By that standard, Tuesday was a good day for both the Republican and Democratic establishments, as voters in the primaries rejected insurgent candidates who might have jeopardized their parties' chances in several crucial contests in November.

The results may have slightly improved the GOP's chances of retaining its majority in the Senate, and the Democrats' hope of recapturing one of the biggest 2018 gubernatorial prizes, in Ohio.

In two of the three states holding Senate primaries, West Virginia and Indiana, where President Donald Trump scored solid 2016 victories, Republicans nominated candidates who could give Democratic incumbents close races. (In the third state, Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown remains favored over GOP Rep. Jim Renacci.)

In the contest that attracted the most attention, West Virginia Republicans rejected Don Blankenship, the controversial former coal mine owner who spent a year in prison for his role in one of the nation's deadliest mine disasters. Though he labeled himself "Trumpier than Trump," Blankenship's racist campaign attracted the enmity of top national Republicans — including Trump — who feared he would cost the GOP its chance of unseating conservative Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin.

Blankenship said he understood the difference. Despite pre-primary reports that

private polls showed him surging, he finished third, as state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey edged Rep. Evan Jenkins.

But Republicans still face a challenge against Manchin, the sole high-level Democratic office-holder in a state that has become increasingly Republican in recent years. The senator comfortably won re-election but his margin, around 70 percent, wasn't especially impressive.

In Indiana, Republicans rejected two GOP House members and chose Mike Braun, a twice-battled state legislator who ran a largely self-funded outsider campaign. Though he joined his rivals in proclaiming himself a conservative Trump supporter, Braun attracted some criticism because of reports he had voted in some past Democratic primaries, which he attributed to a desire to weigh in on local issues.

Unlike his two primary rivals, he'll be able to avoid identification with the unpopular GOP-controlled Congress in his race against freshman Democrat Joe Donnelly. Donnelly was elected six years ago after the two Senate races boosted Sen. Richard Lugar in favor of the arch-conservative state treasurer, Richard Mourdock.

The GOP may need to defeat at least one Democratic incumbent to hold the Senate, because they may have difficulty holding seats in Arizona, Nevada and Tennessee. The chances in Arizona may hinge on whether Rep. Martha McSally can defeat two more outspokenly conservative rivals, state Sen. Kelli Ward and former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, in the August primary. The Democrats have a strong candidate in Rep. Kyrsten Sinema.

If those two Senate races boosted Republicans on Tuesday, Democratic benefited in

the race for governor of Ohio, where former state Attorney General Richard Cordray routed one of the party's most outspoken liberals, former Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

The race featured something of a mini-primaries with Cordray supported by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Kucinich backed by the organization of Sen. Bernie Sanders, though the Vermont independent did not formally endorse the former Cleveland mayor and congressman.

Cordray, who resigned earlier this year as the head of a consumer watchdog federal agency proposed by Warren and created under the Obama administration, will face Mike DeWine, the veteran Republican office-holder who ousted him as attorney general in a close 2010 contest. Kucinich's nomination would virtually have ensured DeWine's election in a state more balanced politically than Indiana or West Virginia, though it backed Trump in 2016. Still, the GOP primary turnout was far bigger than Tuesday's Democratic vote.

In two Ohio congressional districts, Republicans rejected insurgents who might have made winning general elections more difficult. In central Ohio's 12th District, where the resignation of a GOP House member has created an Aug. 7 special election, the party-backed candidate narrowly edged a challenger supported by the Americans United for Freedom Caucus.

Tuesday's primaries also only skirmishes in continuing wars. Coming next: several May 22 Democratic runoffs in Texas, notably a Houston-area congressional contest between insurgent Lizzie Moser and establishment-backed Lizza Pannell Fletcher.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Trump diplomacy pays off The Washington Times

Donald Trump diplomacy, which so often finds delicate sensibilities in the United States and in the ministries of the West, nevertheless continues to pay rewards. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo came home from North Korea on Thursday with three political prisoners released as a propaganda sweetener in advance of the president's talks with Kim Jong Un about suspending his nuclear weapons program.

This was good news for the families of the three Americans, and we all share their joy, relief and gratitude. Three lives are likely saved by their release. A long sentence to a North Korean prison is likely to be a death sentence, as the family of Otto Warmbier, the University of Virginia student who was brutally beaten and tortured for taking a propaganda poster in Pyongyang and sent him to a prison to die, learned to their profound sorrow.

The three Americans released from harsh imprisonment had done little or nothing to offend the government of North Korea, and indeed were probably, like young Otto Warmbier, arrested only to make a political point and collect trading chips. Kim Hak Song, an evangelical Christian, had gone to North Korea to teach at Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, founded by American Christians and now teachers of, among others, the North Korean elite.

Tony Kim had been in Pyongyang for a number of years, teaching a course in international finance at the university (and volunteering at an orphanage), when he was arrested at the Pyongyang airport waiting for a flight to begin his journey home. Kim Dong Chul was a businessman, accused of taking a USB drive with nuclear secrets on it from a former North Korean soldier. In the unlikely event this actually happened, it proves only that North Korean nuclear scientists should not pass around such flash drives with such abandon.

The gratitude for the good fortune of three Americans is tempered for some by the rattling clatter of frustration at the disgust that Trump diplomacy can work.

Trump has accomplished things that his predecessors, steeped in the traditions of diplomatic tie-tipping and crippled by an instinct to lead from behind, did not, and that is the most irritating of all. The president rubs it in that the United States no longer makes empty threats," he said. "When I make promises, I keep them."

The president rubbed it in a little deeper, in fact, when he said he would go to Joint Base Andrews, Md., to welcome the released prisoners home at 2 in the morning. "I will be there, and I will be there," he said. "Very exciting!" He's entitled, like the rest of us, to his exclamation point.

### When Haspel had no answer The New York Times

Gina Haspel has shown she has all the qualities to become the next director of the CIA, except one.

For 33 years with the agency, Haspel has been on the front lines of America's great security programs. She has held station chief to deputy director of the clandestine service, then to deputy director of the agency. Former bosses and colleagues from both parties praise her leadership and professionalism.

What's prevented her from being a shoo-in for the top job is her role at the center of one of the federal government's most sick-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump, accompanied by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, second from right, shakes hands with former North Korean detainees Tony Kim, arriving with Kim Dong Chul and Kim Hak Song, right, at Joint Base Andrews, Md., on Thursday.

ening and indefensible programs, a brutal interrogation regime that used torture against terrorism suspects after the Sept. 11 attacks. It wound down during President George W. Bush's second term, then was banned by President Barack Obama after stirring domestic and international outrage.

In 2002, Haspel headed a CIA detention facility in Thailand where a suspect linked to al-Qaida, accused of orchestrating the attack on the USS Cole off the coast of Yemen, was waterboarded and brutalized in other ways. And in 2005, under her boss' direction, she drafted a cable ordering the agency to destroy more than 90 videotapes of its interrogation of that man.

At Haspel's confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Wednesday, she was pressed on how she now viewed torture and whether she would ever revive the program, even if President Donald Trump ordered her to.

"Having served in that tumultuous time," she said, "I can offer you my personal commitment, clearly and without reservation, that under my leadership, CIA will not restart such a detention and interrogation program."

But she did not declare, flat out, that torture is wrong and that she regretted her role in it. Instead, she defended the torture of terrorism suspects during a fraught time after the Sept. 11 attacks when the agency was focused on preventing more attacks. She said CIA officers should not be judged for their involvement in torture then.

Asked if she would stand up to Trump if he ordered her to resume an "enhanced" interrogation program, she first said, "I do not believe the president would ask me to do that," then added, "I would not restart under any circumstances an interrogation program at CIA."

Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, asked her to define her "moral code." Ms. Haspel said: "I would not allow CIA to undertake activities that are consistent with, even if it is technically legal. I would absolutely not permit it. I believe CIA must undertake activities that are consistent with American values." But she would not say that torture is immoral.

Sen. Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, asked her whether she had called for the program to be continued or expanded in 2005-07 when the program was winding down. Haspel did not answer directly.

Haspel no doubt fears she would be undercutting some of her colleagues by renouncing what she did. But the CIA needs a leader who can reckon openly with the past. Unless Haspel takes that step, she will not have demonstrated the most important quality for any official, a strong moral compass.

### Higher wages should follow Chicago Tribune

Our favorite four-letter word, the one we shout regularly to the rooftops, is J-O-B-S, because employment growth creates prosperity and security for more Americans. The good news on this front deserves a shoutout: Nine years into an economic recovery and 15 months into the Trump administration, the U.S. economy continues to expand and add jobs.

The unemployment rate is now 3.9 percent for all Americans, the lowest level since 2000, while the jobless rate for black workers is 6.6 percent, the lowest figure since record-keeping began in the early 1970s. Yes, record-low joblessness for the black population, and for Latinos, a 4.8 percent rate that ties their record low. Both still are higher than the 3.6 percent rate for whites.

There's much to lament in the inequality of opportunity for blacks in particular. Yet there is also clear evidence that the longer this era of economic expansion continues, the greater number of people benefit. Think back to late 2010, in the wake of the Great Recession, when the overall jobless rate approached 10 percent; it was above 16 percent for blacks.

Statistics are easy to cite and, in this case, to applaud. But what exactly is happening, and how to keep it going? Economists are less helpful once they point out the country has added jobs for 91 consecutive months since October 2010, the longest stretch of job growth on record. Experts can try to predict the future, but they are no better than the rest of us at nailing it.

Our view is that the more confidence employers feel in their prospects, the more people they will hire. President Donald Trump has given employers several good reasons to believe in themselves. One is tax reform. Another is his focus on reducing regulatory red tape; in response they're investing in their businesses. Companies are hiring, but they also are betting on themselves by playing money into plants and equipment. Capital spending climbed 20 percent in the first quarter over the year prior period, according to Credit Suisse.

The most important takeaway is momentum and confidence are keys to this robust cycle of growth. As more people work and spend, businesses experience growing demand and anticipate more, which drives their investment and hiring. Housing gets a boost too. Home prices increased 7 percent in March; the Fannie Mae Home Purchase Sentiment Index — which measures job security and other factors related to buying and selling houses — hit a record high.

The next step in this cycle should be more wage growth. In the construction business, for example, wages are growing

as employers run short of job applicants. "The marketplace has eaten up all the individual talent and we're all trying to poach each other," one St. Louis contractor told The Wall Street Journal. We hope that's a harbinger for the rest of the American workforce.

### Bad rationale to nix Iran deal Los Angeles Times

President Donald Trump on Tuesday finally did what wiser heads in his administration have been trying to keep him from doing almost from the time he was sworn in: He announced that he would withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear agreement. In doing so, he rejected the pleas of America's closest allies and more than 100 current and former senior diplomats. He even turned a blind eye to his own defense secretary's conclusion that the agreement has allowed robust monitoring of Iran's activities.

But as alarming as the action itself was the deceitful and demagogic speech in which he attempted to justify it. It was virtually indistinguishable from the sort of rant Trump delivered on the campaign trail — utterly uninformed by the sort of appreciation for complexity that experience confers on most occupants of the Oval Office. And much as we would like to think the president was motivated by a belief, however pronounced, that standing up this agreement would lead to a better one, it's hard to escape the suspicion that he was more influenced by a compulsion to besmirch the legacy of his predecessor.

Trump spoke four days before he must decide whether to again waive the economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the U.S. to comply with the agreement, which Iran negotiated in 2015 with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Germany and the European Union. In his speech, Trump said not only that he won't waive the sanctions but that the U.S. will "reimpose" them.

But Trump's attack on the agreement — reminiscent of his irresponsible decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris agreement on climate change — was characteristically misleading and short on detail. For example, he described the limits on Iran's nuclear activities as "very weak," a laughable characterization in light of the elaborate requirements of the agreement. Here's one illustration: Iran had to give up most of its ability to enrich uranium and agreed to place the vast majority of its centrifuges in storage under the oversight of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Trump is rightly concerned that several provisions of the agreement — known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — expire or sunset after 10 or 15 years, a condition he called "totally unacceptable." Ideally the agreement would have made those provisions permanent. But it was right to complain in his speech about Iran's development of ballistic missiles and its support for militant groups in the region. But those were the compromises required to strike the deal in the first place. There is no agreement without compromise, and the agreement that puts the U.S. in a stronger position to command concessions.

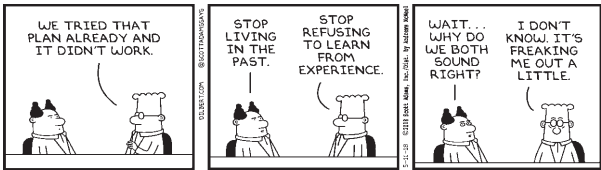
In a statement issued after Trump spoke, the leaders of Germany, France and Britain acknowledged the need to address what happens to Iran's nuclear program in revising the agreement. Trump offered no convincing argument to the contrary.

The full consequences of Trump's decision cannot be known, but they almost certainly will include a further erosion of America's credibility with its allies and others, and tacit encouragement for Iran to revise its nuclear program. It will be bad for the country and for the world.

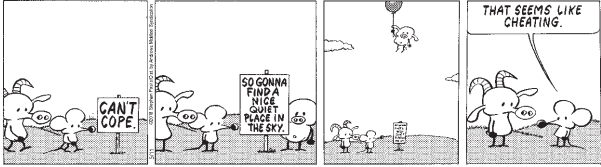
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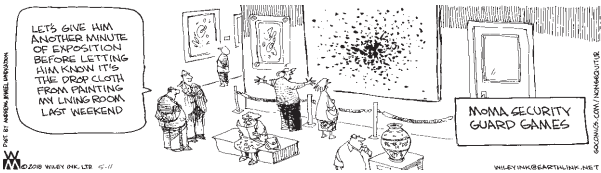
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



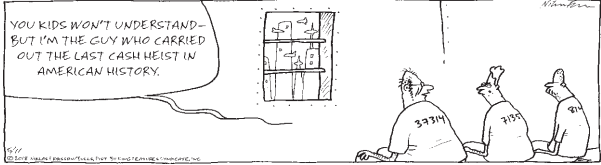
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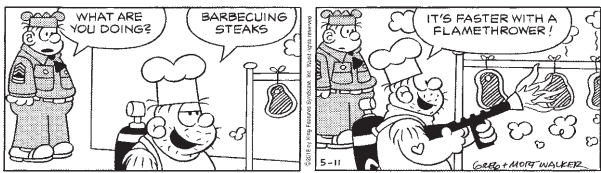
Candorville



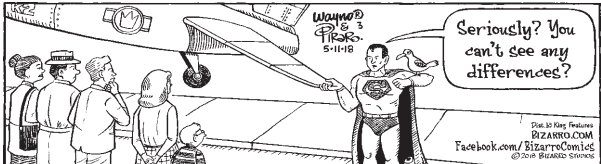
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
		18			19			20		
21	22			23				24		
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			35		36			37		
38	39	40			41		42		43	
44				45				46		
47				48			49		50	51
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

#### ACROSS

- 1 Parlor pieces
- 6 Atlas page
- 9 Nev. neighbor
- 12 Chaplin persona
- 13 Hockey surface
- 14 Altar
- 15 constellation
- 15 Daisy Mae's guy
- 16 Sacred places
- 18 New Orleans cuisine
- 20 Evening, in an ad
- 21 4, on a phone
- 23 — out a living
- 24 Say
- 25 Borscht base
- 27 Maxim
- 29 Tempura choice
- 31 Piercing
- 35 Winner's gesture
- 37 Uppity sort
- 38 "Evita" surname
- 41 Not 'neath
- 43 ICU workers
- 44 And others (Lat.)
- 45 Car-repair shop
- 47 Withier
- 49 Foolish
- 52 Sock part
- 53 Blackbird
- 54 "— bleu!"
- 55 Old map letters

#### DOWN

- 1 Depot (Abbr.)
- 2 Sphere
- 3 More posh
- 4 From the U.S.
- 5 Shopping binge
- 6 Deceived
- 7 Dull pain
- 8 Capita lead-in
- 9 "Be quiet!"
- 10 Mountain crest
- 11 Surgical beam
- 17 Buries
- 19 Giraffe's kin
- 21 "Pygmalion" monogram
- 22 Sneaky laugh
- 24 "Yecch!"
- 26 Villa d'Este city
- 28 "El" actor Ed
- 30 AOL rival
- 32 Close at hand
- 33 Chaney of horror films
- 34 Scale abbr.
- 36 Net defender in hockey
- 38 Nuisances
- 39 Community spirit
- 40 Harder to find
- 42 Lift
- 45 Hereditary unit
- 46 Pesky insect
- 48 Cistern
- 50 Gun lobby org.
- 51 Still, in verse

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	N	O	B	A	L	F	A	B	E	T
E	A	S	E	I	S	U	M	O		
R	I	L	L	B	O	B	T	R	I	G
B	L	O	U	S	E	S	I	E	R	R
			G	I	S		C	R	I	
M	A	M	A	T	A	L	E	N	T	E
A	G	E	O	N	O		O	L	E	
C	O	M	P	O	S	I	T	A	S	K
		E	I	N		A	R	M		
D	A	N	C	E	S		L	E	A	D
E	C	T	O		A	G	T	Z	I	T
A	L	O	T		G	O	O	O	V	A
F	U	S	S		E	D	S	N	E	L

#### 5-11

#### CRYPTOQUIP

ENWKXX WVZDK FGNNY'F

TNWI ZNR IL FLTNALRX VGL

GWFBLLTUIINRWBEUTN:

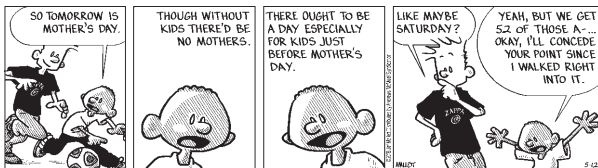
TDIILMZLEYDMUFGTNMI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THE PIANIST GOT FLUSTERED AND PLAYED ONE MEASURE INCORRECTLY, HE REGAINED HIS COMPOSER.

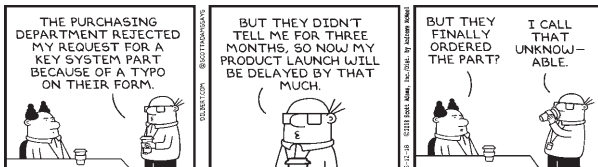
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals M



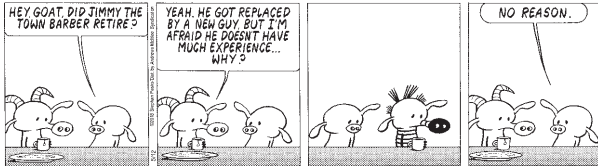
Frazz



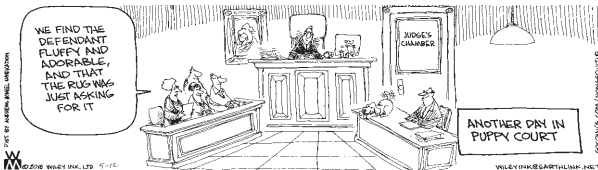
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Non Sequitur



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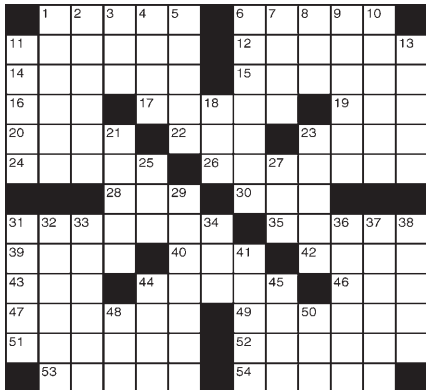
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Diva's solos
- 6 Investigate
- 11 Boxing combo
- 12 Start a computer again
- 14 "Act nice!"
- 15 Show clearly
- 16 Brit. record label
- 17 Windblown soil
- 19 Capitol VIP
- 20 Winnow
- 22 CCV x X
- 23 Highway division
- 24 Devoured
- 26 "Hush!"
- 28 Biz bigwig
- 30 Actor Brynner
- 31 "I insist that you attend!"
- 35 Expels
- 39 Cambodia neighbor
- 40 Rocker Rose
- 42 Pump, e.g.
- 43 Work unit
- 44 Pub perch
- 46 Popeye's Olive —
- 47 San —, Texas
- 49 "Chill out, OK?"
- 51 Penn pal
- 52 Beginnings

### DOWN

- 1 Lack of vitality
- 2 Pass on, as a fruitcake
- 3 Jurist Lance
- 4 Military no-show
- 5 Sin city
- 6 "Clambake" star
- 7 Guns the engine
- 8 Kimono closer
- 9 Dwarfed
- 10 Dawn-of-mammals epoch
- 11 Having a lot to lose?
- 13 Doctrine singer
- 18 Diplomat's res.
- 21 Computer pros
- 23 Humdingers
- 25 Born
- 27 Status follower
- 29 Public speaking
- 31 Sheep's cry
- 32 Breadwinner
- 33 On/off switch
- 34 Outer (Pref.)
- 36 Waved away
- 37 Prius maker
- 38 Vends
- 44 "Citizen Kane" prop
- 45 Sultry Horne
- 48 Days of yore
- 50 Hit CBS series

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 5-12

### CRYPTOQUIP

CDJ KIU GJX QJ QUVV YU T

FDJXVN QITY YG UGUPIJCF

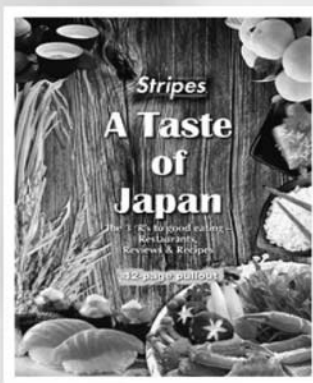
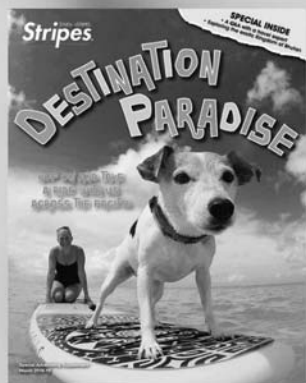
YJIU JZQUO? QDKQ'F OJOU

JZ GJXI PXFDTOUFF!

Yesterday's Cryptquip: REALLY AWFUL SHEEP'S MEAT FED TO SOMEBODY WHO HAS COMMITTED A CRIME: MUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals N

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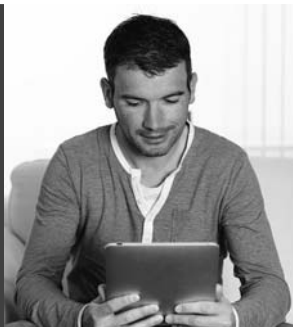
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## HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

# Longer trips require some teams to adjust

Chance to play different schools balances out with lost practice time

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

For baseball and softball teams in DODEA Europe, long road trips can mean two things: less practice, and more practice.

The Kaiserslautern Raiders and Naples Wildcats are facing that kind of paradox this weekend as they visit the Vicenza Cougars for the kind of multiple-day, multiple-team meet that is a growing aspect of the DODEA Europe regular-season schedule. While the travel required for those events eats into a team's weekly practice routine, the experience derived from facing a wider breadth of opponents is invaluable.

"We are not looking forward to the commute, but we are certainly happy about playing Naples and Vicenza in the regular season for the first time ever," Kaiserslautern baseball coach Justin Bates said. "These long trips are never easy, but they teach our players to deal with adversity."

The road trip is by far the longest of the season for the Raiders, and in fact their first and only trip outside of their home country this spring. Kaiserslautern was the host for its set against United Kingdom school Lakenheath; last weekend's doubleheader at Vilsack, a drive of about 225 miles, represents its longest trip aside from this weekend's journey to Italy. The Raiders will also co-host the European tournament later in May.

Long trips are more routine for Naples. Vicenza, the Wildcats' only Division I rival in Italy, is some 450 miles north of Naples; Kaiserslautern's closest rival, Ramstein, is a 10-minute drive



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

**Pitcher Brian Palmer and the Vicenza Cougars play host to two distant Division I opponents this weekend. The Naples Wildcats and Kaiserslautern Raiders visit Vicenza on Friday and Saturday as the scope of DODEA Europe's regular season continues to expand.**

away, and Wiesbaden and Stuttgart are also manageable same-day drives away.

Naples baseball coach Jim Davis is very familiar with the constraints his team's geographic reality apply.

"When we do travel, we lose practice days because of it, so we have to do more in the three days," Davis said. "Whereas teams that have shorter travel times can practice all week long and play on Saturdays."

Kaiserslautern softball coach Jesse Costa, a former coach at Naples, is very familiar with that process.

"We need to get as much done

as possible during the three days that we do have before we travel," Costa said.

That sense of urgency in practice is elevated by the fact that Kaiserslautern and Naples are preparing for unfamiliar opponents this weekend.

"We only get three days of practice this week," Naples softball coach Amy Driscoll said. "Of course that is not ideal when we are about to face a tough D-I competitor like [Kaiserslautern]."

While the lost practice time is a challenge, it's alleviated by the increased scope of regular-season competition. And in DODEA Europe, where every team ad-

vances to the European championship tournaments, the regular season doubles as practice for the season-defining playoffs.

"It's always beneficial to be able to play against teams during the regular season that we might see during Europeans," Costa said. "That way there really isn't the unknown or a big surprise heading into the tournament."

All told, coaches are using this weekend's three-team meet as a motivational tool just weeks ahead of the European tournaments, which start May 24.

"It most definitely helps prepare us for what we will face at Europeans," Driscoll said. "I

think it really helps my players see how hard they need to work to assure we are ready when facing the larger D-I schools."

A strong showing this weekend suggests good things going forward.

"If anything, we're practicing harder this week due to our games this weekend. I don't think that it has as much to do with the road trip as it does with the point in the season at which we stand," Bates said. "We know these games are important, and we want to play solid baseball to build momentum for the tournament."

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## Weekend peek

# Seeding at stake in final soccer games

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

The final weekend of the DODEA Europe soccer regular season holds a number of last-minute chances for teams to optimize their seeding in the upcoming European soccer tournaments, set for May 21-24 at sites around the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

The Stuttgart Panthers and SHAPE Spartans are among the Division I boys squads hoping to improve their status in the nine-team field. The two teams bring a combined 10-3 overall record into their Saturday match.

The Panthers are right on the edge of title contention. They've won four of six Division I games this spring, including their last three, and even their setbacks — a 1-0 season-opening loss to Wiesbaden and a tight 4-3 decision against Ramstein — indicate a very dangerous tournament team.

SHAPE was limited in its only loss, a 3-1 defeat to Ramstein on April 20, but has otherwise fielded one of DODEA Europe's

most explosive offensive attacks. The Spartans scored 13 combined goals last weekend in blowout defeats of solid lower-division programs AFNORTH and Spangdahlem.

A pair of struggling Division I girls teams, meanwhile, have the chance to finish up their regular seasons on a positive note this weekend, albeit at the other's expense.

The Kaiserslautern Raiders have struggled mightily in games against divisional powerhouses Stuttgart, Ramstein and Wiesbaden. They'll find a more manageable opponent Saturday in the winless Vilsack Falcons.

DODEA Europe's lower-division schools are largely booked for cross-divisional matchups to wrap up the regular season, including regional rivalries like Baumholder's set against Spangdahlem. The regular-season finale between Alconbury and Brussels, however, carries major implications for the upcoming Division III boys and girls tournaments.

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## Games of the week

### Baseball Rota at Sigonella Spangdahlem at Aviano

#### Friday and Saturday

Two crucial matchups in Italy will go a long way towards determining seeding at the upcoming European Division II/III baseball tournament.

Defending champion Sigonella remains the team to beat. The Jaguars have won six of eight games over two busy weekends in late April, a run that included two shut-out wins over Rota.

The Admirals, however, are among the hottest teams in Europe, bringing a four-game winning streak into its final series of the regular season.

Reliable contender Spangdahlem, meanwhile, has spent its season being largely roughed up by the Division I likes of Ramstein, Lakenheath and Kaiserslautern. A sweep of the Saints would lock in an undefeated divisional record for the Sentinels.



## MLB

# Whenever: Brewers' Hader ready to go

By GENARO C. ARMAS  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Reliever Josh Hader's most important role with the Milwaukee Brewers might be that he doesn't really have a defined role at all.

Come in with one out in the eighth with two runners on to preserve a four-run lead? No problem.

Go 2½ innings to save a one-run game on the road? Done.

Hader makes quick work of high-pressure situations, no matter when they occur. A humble, team-first attitude helps. So does a 95-mph fastball and filthy slider.

"Just mentality-wise, just wanting the ball whenever. Just getting out whenever you can, whenever they need," Hader said. "Really, just keeping relaxed, not trying to overdo it."

Tell that to the hitters who have to face the hard-throwing left-hander with the name "Josh Haderade" on Twitter.

Hader was 1-0 with a 1.64 ERA with five saves in 12 games entering Thursday night's game at Colorado. With 46 strikeouts in 22 innings, Hader is averaging an eye-popping 18.8 strikeouts per nine innings.

On April 30 against Cincinnati, Hader struck out eight of the nine batters he faced in 2½ innings to become the first modern-era reliever to fan eight in less than three innings. The stellar April earned NL Reliever of the Month honors for Hader.

"Their closer there, Hader, that's quite the performance," Reds manager Jim Riggleman said then. "I don't think anyone was going to hit him tonight."

The scariest part for the rest of the league is that Hader is just 24. Someday, he might be a starter.

For now, he's making relief work look easy.

"We always kind of joke, sometimes he goes out there and makes it kind of easy," Brewers reliever Taylor Williams said in recalling Hader's historic outing against the Reds.

"You watch the first inning go by and you're like, 'Oh, he struck out three batters... typical Josh Hader,'" Williams said. "Then you get to that third inning and you realize that he had struck out [eight] batters in a row, and you're like, 'Holy cow!'"



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

**Brewers relief pitcher Josh Hader throws during the eighth inning of a game last month against the St. Louis Cardinals. Hader's most important role with the Brewers might be that he doesn't really have any defined role at all. Hader makes quick work of high-leverage situations, no matter when they occur. A humble, team-first attitude helps. So does a 95-mph fastball and filthy slider.**

**“That’s the thing with me, I want to help the team in any way I can.”**

**Josh Hader**  
Brewers reliever

the team in any way I can,” Hader said. “If that’s me going long or getting one guy out, that’s what job is to do.”

Hader, like the rest of the Brewers’ bullpen, has bought into manager Craig Counsell’s plan of not setting exclusive roles for most of his relievers.

Milwaukee has had one of the top three

teams in the league in bullpen ERA of late, even with All-Star closer Corey Knebel sidelined for much of the year with a hamstring injury.

“They’ve all done such a nice job that I think we’ve been able to push some guys and get them rest and go with different guys on the next day,” Counsell said, “and not have to think you have to have that guy available every single day.”

Knebel returned this week. But the late innings were still in good hands with Hader, who has gone at least two innings in each of his five saves.

“We’re a family,” Hader said. “I really think when you attack the zone and have each other’s backs, there’s no better feeling right there.”

## Piscotty emotional in return after mom’s death

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Wherever he went on the field, Stephen Piscotty felt his mother’s presence.

Two days after Gretchen Piscotty died from Lou Gehrig’s disease, her son was back at work for the Oakland Athletics. Full of sadness, but enveloped in love.

“All day, I didn’t feel alone. I felt like someone was with me,” he said a day later, on Wednesday. “I had a round in batting practice where I hit five homers out of five and I’ve never done that. That’s not me.”

“I didn’t feel alone. I felt like there was someone with me yesterday. I know it was her. She was with us there during that at-bat,” he said.

Piscotty received an extended ovation from the Coliseum fans before the first time he hit Tues-

day night. Prior to stepping to the plate in the second inning, he placed his hand on his heart — a gesture of appreciation for the reception in memory of his mother.

“That’s something my mom would do when she wasn’t able to speak,” Piscotty said in his first remarks since her passing. “This was just, ‘I love you and thank you.’ That’s what I did in the box and that’s kind of her way of saying, ‘I’m going to keep that with me.’”

Houston pitcher Lance McCullers Jr. walked behind the mound to let Piscotty soak in the emotion. Several of McCullers’ teammates clapped along with the crowd.

“I feel for him and I feel for his family,” McCullers said. “From everything I’ve heard, he’s an awesome guy. I just wanted him to have some time to be able to come up and have the fans recognize him. I wanted that moment

to be his.”

Piscotty then singled to right as the crowd burst into more cheers.

“It was a special moment,” Piscotty said. “I got in the box and heard the crowd start to roar and stepped out. I just wanted to acknowledge and to say thank you for all the support the A’s community has given me. It was a cool moment and I know my mom was watching.”

Piscotty’s father, Mike, was interviewed on the scoreboard.

“Thatta boy, Stephen,” his dad said.

Gretchen Piscotty died Sunday night at 55. She was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in May 2017 when her son was with St. Louis. The Cardinals traded him to Oakland in December in part to allow Piscotty to be closer to his home in the East Bay suburb of Pleasanton during his mother’s illness.

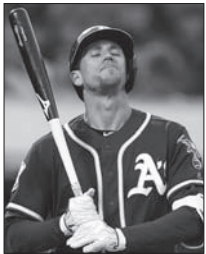
The A’s outfielder was with his mother when she died. He did not play Monday, but came back to a warm reception from both the A’s and the Astros, who sent him a card before the game.

Piscotty caught the first ball of the game, a fly to right by George Springer, then went 1-for-3 in a 4-2 loss. Asked if the hit was the best of his career, Piscotty smiled.

“That’s one of the most memorable, for sure,” he said.

Piscotty was in the A’s lineup again Wednesday against the Astros, but will not accompany the team to New York for the start of a trip at Yankee Stadium. He will join the team following a celebration of life for his mother on Monday.

Oakland planned to honor Gretchen by matching up to \$50,000 in donations made to the ALS Therapy Development Institute via [youcaring.com/piscotty](http://youcaring.com/piscotty).



BEN MARGOT/AP

**The A’s Stephen Piscotty closes his eyes as he acknowledges a standing ovation from fans on Tuesday against the Astros. It was his first appearance in a game since the death of his mother, Gretchen, on Sunday.**

## MLB

## Scoreboard

## American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	10	172	
Boston	25	11	694	1
Toronto	20	17	541	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	15	19	441	10
Baltimore	9	27	250	17
<b>Central Division</b>				
Cleveland	18	18	500	—
Minnesota	15	17	469	1
Detroit	15	21	417	3
Kansas City	12	24	333	6
Chicago	9	25	265	8
<b>West Division</b>				
Houston	24	15	615	—
Los Angeles	22	14	611	1/2
Seattle	20	15	571	2
Oakland	18	19	486	5
Texas	15	24	385	9

## National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	14	600	—
Philadelphia	15	17	583	1/2
Washington	20	18	526	2 1/2
New York	18	17	514	3
Miami	13	23	361	8 1/2
<b>Central Division</b>				
St. Louis	20	14	588	—
Milwaukee	21	16	568	1/2
Pittsburgh	21	16	568	1/2
Chicago	19	15	559	1
Cincinnati	10	27	270	11 1/2
<b>West Division</b>				
Arizona	21	16	567	—
Colorado	21	16	567	3 1/2
San Francisco	19	18	514	5 1/2
Los Angeles	16	20	444	8
San Diego	14	24	368	11

## Tuesday's games

Minnesota 7, St. Louis 1	
Kansas City 15, Baltimore 7	
N.Y. Yankees 3, Boston 2	
Seattle 5, Toronto 0	
Atlanta 1, Tampa Bay 0	
Milwaukee 3, Cleveland 2	
Detroit 7, Texas 4	
Pittsburgh 10, Chicago White Sox 6	
Cincinnati 4, L.A. Angels 2	
Houston 4, Oakland 2	
Philadelphia 4, San Francisco 2	
Cincinnati 7, N.Y. Mets 2	
Chicago Cubs 4, Miami 3	
Atlanta 7, Washington 12, 11 innings	
Washington 4, San Diego 0	
<b>Wednesday's games</b>	
Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 2	
Texas 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings	
Pittsburgh 6, Chicago White Sox 5	
L.A. Angels 8, Colorado 0	
Houston 4, Oakland 1	
Baltimore 5, Kansas City 3	
Seattle 9, Boston 6	
Toronto 5, Seattle 2	
Atlanta 3, Tampa Bay 2	
Cincinnati 2, N.Y. Mets 10, 11 innings	
Chicago Cubs 13, Miami 4	
San Francisco 3, San Diego 0	
San Diego 2, Washington 1	
L.A. Angels 6, Arizona 1	
<b>Thursday's games</b>	
Boston at N.Y. Yankees	
Kansas City at Baltimore	
Seattle at Toronto	
Cincinnati at L.A. Angels	
San Francisco at Philadelphia	
Atlanta at Miami	
Milwaukee at Colorado	
Washington at Arizona	
Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers	
St. Louis at San Diego	
<b>Friday's games</b>	
Chicago White Sox (Fulmer 2-2) at Chicago Cubs (Chatwood 2-3)	
Oakland (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 2-2)	
Tampa Bay (Faria 3-1) at Baltimore (Gausman 2-2)	
Boston (Sale 3-1) at Toronto (Sanchez 2-3)	
Kansas City (Hammel 0-4) at Cleveland (Tomlin 0-4)	
Seattle (Gonzalez 3-2) at Detroit (TBD)	
Texas (Hamels 1-4) at Houston (Morton 4-0)	
Minnesota (Lynn 1-3) at L.A. Angels (Scaps 2-0)	
N.Y. Mets (Matz 1-3) at Philadelphia (Arrieta 3-4)	
San Francisco (Suarez 1-1) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 2-3)	
Atlanta (McCarthy 4-1) at Miami (Straily 0-0)	
Milwaukee (Anderson 3-3) at Colorado (Bettis 4-1)	
Washington (Scherer 6-1) at Arizona (TBD)	
Cincinnati (Finegan 0-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Madsen 2-2)	
St. Louis (Weaver 2-2) at San Diego (Lauer 1-4)	

## Saturday's games

Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs	
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees	
Tampa Bay at Baltimore	
Boston at Toronto	
Kansas City at Cleveland	
Seattle at Detroit	
Texas at Houston	
Minnesota at L.A. Angels	
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia	
San Francisco at Pittsburgh	
Atlanta at Miami	
Milwaukee at Colorado	
Washington at Arizona	
Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers	
St. Louis at San Diego	

## Calendar

**June 4-13** — All-star draft starts.  
**June 13-14** — Owners' meetings, New York.  
**July 17** — All-Star Game, Washington.  
**July 29** — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.

## Mikolas has fast start for Cardinals

## Right-hander impressing after 3-year stint in Japan

By KURT VOIGT

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The last time the major leagues saw Miles Mikolas before this season, the right-hander was a career minor-league reliever who was learning how to become a starting pitcher for the Texas Rangers.

That was in 2014, and to the surprise of few, that learning curve proved too steep for a seventh-round draft pick with 66 minor-league saves on his resume.

"I was kind of learning on the job, which can be really tough when you're trying to learn how to start against major league hitters," Mikolas said.

Following his failed stint in the American League, Mikolas headed to Japan, where he spent the next three years learning the art of being a starter for the Yomiuri Giants. It's a move that has paid off for both the 29-year-old and the St. Louis Cardinals, who signed Mikolas to a \$15.5 million, two-year contract during the offseason.

Mikolas was 10th in the National League with a 2.70 ERA after Tuesday's games. The former Nova Southeastern University pitcher has allowed two or fewer runs in each of his last four starts — highlighted by a scoreless seven-inning outing in a win over the Chicago Cubs last week.

"Guys don't seem to pick him up real well," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "They're seeing him for the first time, a lot of them, too. So, I think all that plays into his hands, but he's just making good pitches. He's just been real impressive."

What's been most impressive about Mikolas' return to the major leagues hasn't been his ability to get outs. It's been keeping runners off base, allowing only two walks in his first 40 innings with the Cardinals.

Mikolas hasn't walked a batter in each of his last three starts, a streak he will try and continue when St. Louis begins a four-game series against the San Diego Padres on Thursday.



MICHAEL THOMAS/AP

St. Louis starting pitcher Miles Mikolas returned from a three-year stay in Japan when he signed with the Cardinals during the offseason. The right-hander has been one of the top starters for St. Louis in his return, walking only two batters in 40 innings this season.

"If I throw ball four, there's a 100 percent chance that guy's going to be on first base," Mikolas said. "If you make him put it in play, I'll take my chances with those numbers."

Mikolas, a native of Jupiter, Fla., made 236 appearances in the minors for the both the Padres and Rangers. After starting 11 games during his first season in 2009, he didn't start another game until a rain delay forced his Triple-A coaches to ask him about starting in 2014.

He did so, and six starts with Round Rock later, Mikolas was called up to Texas — where he compiled a 6.44 ERA in 10 starts to end that season.

It was after that rough stretch that Mikolas made the decision to leave for Japan.

And it was there he learned how to become a starting pitcher while refining his pitches, smoothing out his delivery and concentrating on location, all with the goal of returning to the major leagues.

"There was always the one guy in the back of your head that you probably want to get out of there, that's telling you 'This wasn't a good idea,'" Mikolas said. "But 99 percent of me was confident in saying this was the right choice, and here I am. It's worked out well."

## Price diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Boston Red Sox left-hander David Price was diagnosed Wednesday with carpal tunnel syndrome after twice experiencing numbness in his pitching hand this season.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora confirmed the diagnosis prior to a game at Yankee Stadium, which Price was supposed to start.

"For me this is quote-unquote good news compared to anything else," Cora said.

Price was sent back to Boston on Tuesday for tests to experience numbness in his pitching hand during a bullpen session Sunday. He was forced from a game April 11 with the same symptoms after allowing four runs in the first inning — the shortest start of his career.

Cora described it as a "mild case of carpal tunnel" and said Price will rejoin the team Thursday. He'll throw at Yankee Stadium, and then the team will re-evaluate his status.

Cora hasn't ruled out Price to pitch Saturday's game at Toronto. Price is 2-4 with a 5.11 ERA



RICHARD RODRIGUEZ/AP

Boston Red Sox starter David Price walks off the mound after turning the ball over to manager Alex Cora in the fourth inning of a game against the Rangers in Arlington, Texas, last Thursday.

## 'There's a lot of teams playing Fortnite. But we'll talk about it.'

Alex Cora

Boston Red Sox manager, on the possibility that starting pitcher David Price's diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome could be video-game-related

in seven starts during his third season with Boston. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner signed a \$217 million, seven-year contract with the Red Sox in December 2015 but has been slowed by injuries the past two years.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is an uncommon injury for baseball players. It's caused by repeated motions, such as typing, and is more common among esports athletes. Price is a longtime video game enthusiast, and this season, Price and teammates have been logging long hours playing Fortnite — Price told The Associated Press last month the game has "kind of taken over."

Cora did not think video games had brought on the syndrome, but he said Fortnite may be discussed when he sits down with Price on Thursday to lay out a recovery plan.

"From what I know, David has been playing video games his whole life," Cora said. "It seems like Fortnite now is the one everybody's playing, but last year I saw a lot of guys playing FIFA."

"That's all I know. There's a lot of teams playing Fortnite. But we'll talk about it."

Cora said treatment options for carpal tunnel syndrome could include icing or massages. "We'll see what works for him," Cora said. "As you guys know, we need him. We need him here. We need him to compete. He's a big part of what we're trying to accomplish."

Rick Porcello had his start moved up a day to fill in for Price on Wednesday.

## NHL PLAYOFFS



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Vegas Golden Knights goalie Marc-Andre Fleury has been one of the best in these playoffs. That is no surprise to former teammates who can tell when he's in the zone.

# Fleury back to being great playoff goalie

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

Anyone who has played with Marc-Andre Fleury can tell he's dialed in by watching his mannerisms.

Last year, he rubbed the shaft of his stick after making a save with it on Alex Ovechkin. This year, he continued a career-long tradition of rubbing the post as a sign of appreciation for keeping a puck out.

"That's when you know he's in the zone," Pittsburgh defenseman Olli Maatta said.

Fleury is in one of the best zones of his career in the playoffs with the expansion Vegas Golden Knights, who have followed up a magical inaugural season with a trip to the Western Conference final. The goaltending of Fleury is the biggest reason they've gotten this far and is a continuation of his remarkable playoff reputation built during his time with the Penguins.

After taking the Penguins to the Stanley Cup Final in 2008 and winning it all in 2009, Fleury lost four of the next five series he played and each postseason posted a save percentage under .900. He has since gotten his groove back, helping the Penguins win the Cup a year ago, and now leads the NHL with a 1.53 goals-against average, .951 save percentage and four shutouts during the playoffs.

"I don't think it was anything physically that he changed," former Penguins teammate and current Capitals defenseman Brooks Orpik said. "It was all confidence-driven. He's always been a guy who's really competitive and really loose at the same time. I think it was just confidence. I think he needed a fresh start. Maybe he just needed a clean slate, and you perform

better when you're more appreciated."

It's impossible not to appreciate the impact "Flower" has made in the desert as

**'I think he needed a fresh start. Maybe he just needed a clean slate, and you perform better when you're more appreciated.'**

Brooks Orpik  
Fleury's ex-teammate

came in 2012. Fleury allowed 26 goals in six games to Philadelphia in a first-round exit. The next playoffs, backup Tomas Vokoun started more games, and it was fair to wonder if Fleury had lost it.

"You learn from losing," Fleury said Wednesday. "You learn from tough times and pressure and stuff like that. It made me a better goalie from it."

Now-Capitals defenseman Matt Niskanen was there for some of the struggles but didn't level them all on Fleury. By 2014, he noticed a different goalie.

"There was a period of time there where maybe [it was] not entirely his fault, a few things went wrong and it snowballed on him and he had a tough go there. I think, mentally for a couple springs," Niskanen

said. "But by the time of my last year there he was really good again."

The scars of another second-round exit led to more blame for Fleury, who was scapegoated for a team with Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin not doing more after the Cup in 2009.

"Sometimes it's the way your team plays in front of you," said Penguins winger Carl Hagelin, who beat Fleury with the Rangers in playoff series in 2014 and 2015. "Sometimes, like any other player, you might have a bad series or a bad playoffs and I think for a goalie if you have that, people are going to be all over you."

Following a forgettable first-round loss to Hagelin and the Rangers in 2015, Fleury had one of his best regular seasons. But he was nevertheless replaced as Pittsburgh's playoff starter by Matt Murray on the way to the Cup in 2016.

Before he played a substantial role in the Penguins' second consecutive title run, Fleury agreed to waive his no-movement clause to go to Vegas in the expansion draft. Golden Knights general manager George McPhee, whose 2009 Capitals lost to Fleury in the second round, said Dave Prior was insistent on adding Fleury because the veteran goaltending coach felt there was more improvement to be made in his game.

"He obviously studies goaltenders all around the league and looks at the way that they're playing the game," McPhee said. "He was excited and he really advocated for him in our meetings and thought that he could make him even better than he's been. We like the calming effect he has on this team. When he plays, he's really good when you need him the most. Needless to

say you don't get to the third round in this league unless you got a goaltender that's playing well."

Fleury will be playing in the third round for the fifth time in his career, a testament to the 33-year-old's willingness to adjust as he has gotten older, including eating the right food, training meticulously and allowing his body to recover.

"When you're young, you eat whatever, you never hurt, I never stretched, I could do the splits, it was easier," Fleury said. "Now I got to do more to maintain that flexibility and comfortness in the net. The older you get, things tend to linger around longer and you got to find ways to feel loose and feel good when games come around."

Players are rarely worried about Fleury being tight. Even when Murray took his starting job, Fleury didn't let it affect his mood at the rink.

"For him it definitely wasn't easy because I'm sure he knew how good he is and everybody else knew how good he is," Maatta said. "He still kind of kept showing up smiling and being an awesome teammate all the time even though he was probably in a tough spot."

The laughs during the bad times have endeared Fleury to teammates who watch his playoff success with Vegas with great joy.

"Cares about the group, has fun at the rink, competitive as heck, cares about the right things," Niskanen said. "It's not surprising at all that he's done as well as he has there. It's surprising how well the team has done but not him specifically. He's a really good goalie and a perfect fit for them."

Freelance reporter W.G. Ramirez in Las Vegas contributed.



## NHL PLAYOFFS

## Ovechkin, Trotz in new territory with Caps

Washington in Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 1998

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — The smiling side of a handshake line at the end of the second round was a brand-new experience for Alex Ovechkin and Barry Trotz.

Ovechkin received a message of good luck and a pat on the chest from Sidney Crosby, while Trotz got to enjoy a happy moment with longtime coaching friend Jacques Martin. Ovechkin acknowledged he'd been in that position a lot of times — though never as the one moving on to the third round.

Until now.

The Washington Capitals reaching the Eastern Conference final for the first time since 1998 is perhaps most special to the superstar captain and his coach who had never made it out of the second round before. No coach in NHL history had been behind the bench for more games than Trotz and no active player had been in as many playoff games as Ovechkin without reaching the conference finals.

"There is a kinship there, there's no question," Trotz said. "I've been at this for a while and it's so hard to move forward sometimes. It's always thrown in your face everywhere you turn. I know it's thrown in Ovechkin's face everywhere he turns, and he's a great player in this league... I knew the frustration because you're so close and you just can't get it, and you just got to stay with it."

After 51 playoff games together, Ovechkin and Trotz will take part in their first East final starting Friday night in Tampa Bay against the Lightning. Now that they've gathered a group that defined their respective careers, Ovechkin, Trotz and the



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Capitals head coach Barry Trotz, center, and left wing Alex Ovechkin, right, are finally past the second round of the playoffs. No coach in NHL history had been behind the bench for more games than Trotz and no active player had been in as many playoff games as Ovechkin without reaching the conference finals.

Capitals are an unfamiliar territory. "It's something new for us and cool," Ovechkin said Wednesday, less than 48 hours after Washington eliminated the defending champion Pittsburgh Penguins. "Right now it's just satisfaction we beat the Stanley Cup champions finally and we move forward and now we're going to play against a very good team, against very good

goaltending and solid players over there."

The Atlantic Division-champion Lightning present a formidable challenge, but the Capitals had to overcome something altogether different after losing in the first or second round in all nine playoff appearances that have come during the Ovechkin era dating to 2008. Beating the rival Penguins in overtime in a Game 6 on the road made

**'There is a kinship there, there's no question.'**

Barry Trotz

Washington coach, on his shared struggles with Capitals' star winger Alex Ovechkin to advance out of the second round of the playoffs

the breakthrough even more emotional. "We should be proud of that," defenseman Matt Niskanen said. "It's a big achievement. But I think we've got to be greedy. We've got to want more because this is a heck of a run. I don't know if there is a group out there that knows how hard it is to get to this point."

The Capitals are at this point with Ovechkin on top of his game with eight goals and seven assists, his best playoff output since 2009. And they're here in large part because of Trotz, a well-respected, 19-year NHL coach who does not have a contract for next season.

"I had a summer which was very enlightening to me, and I just look at everything way differently than I ever have," Trotz said. "I just recognized that I can only control what I can control."

Trotz can't control upper-body injuries to Nicklas Backstrom and Andre Burakovsky or a three-game suspension handed out to winger Tom Wilson, only the decisions he makes in replacing them. So far, Trotz has pushed the right buttons, like putting Braden Holtby back in net in Game 2 of the first round and promoting Jakub Vrana to the top line in Game 5 against Pittsburgh.

His players know Trotz is in control as he and the Capitals advance further into the spring than he has in 20 years. "We want to win a Cup," forward Chandler Stephenson said.

## Scoreboard

**Conference semifinals**  
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

Washington 3, Pittsburgh 2

Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2

Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh 3, Washington 3

Pittsburgh 3, Washington 1

Washington 6, Pittsburgh 3

Washington 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT

Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3, OT

Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Winnipeg 3, Nashville 3

Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT

Winnipeg 4, Nashville 2

Nashville 2, Winnipeg 1

Winnipeg 6, Nashville 0

Nashville 1, Winnipeg 0

Thursday at Nashville

Vegas 4, San Jose 2

Vegas 7, San Jose 0

San Jose 4, Vegas 3, OT

San Jose 4, Vegas 0

Vegas 5, San Jose 3

Vegas 3, San Jose 0

**Conference finals**

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

Washington vs. Tampa Bay

Friday at Tampa Bay, AFN-Sports2, 2

a, 8 p.m. CDT on Saturday 8ET

Sunday, May 13 at Tampa Bay

Thursday, May 15 at Washington

Friday, May 17 at Washington

x-Saturday, May 19 at Tampa Bay

x-Monday, May 21 at Washington

x-Wednesday, May 23 at Tampa Bay

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Nashville or Winnipeg vs. Vegas

Saturday at Nashville or Winnipeg

Sunday at Nashville or Winnipeg

Wednesday, May 16 at Vegas

Friday, May 18 at Vegas

x-Saturday, May 20 at Nashville/Winnipeg

x-Sunday, May 22 at Vegas

x-Thursday, May 24 at Nashville/Winnipeg

x-Friday, May 25 at Vegas

x-Saturday, May 26 at Nashville/Winnipeg

x-Sunday, May 27 at Vegas

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## NFL/TENNIS

# Lions' Patricia denies '96 assault allegation

By NOAH TRISTER  
Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia said Thursday he was “falsely accused” in a 1996 sexual assault allegation that resurfaced this week, and he indicated that the matter has not been an issue as he has climbed from job to job in the years since then.

Patricia held a brief news conference one day after a Detroit News report that he and a friend were indicted 22 years ago by a Texas grand jury on one count each of aggravated sexual assault. They were accused of assaulting a woman on South Padre Island. The accuser did not testify and the case was dismissed.

“I was innocent then, and I am innocent now,” Patricia said.

The Lions said Wednesday night that a pre-employment background check did not turn up the incident. The team said Patricia was 21 at the time and on spring break in Texas. The Lions said they were standing by Patricia.

An NFL spokesman said Thursday the league “will review the matter with the club to understand the allegations and what the club has learned.”

Lions owner Martha Firestone Ford, general manager Bob Quinn and president Rod Wood were at Thursday's news conference but did not speak.

“I’m here to defend my honor and clear my name. Twenty-two years ago, I was falsely accused of something very serious,” Patricia said. “There were claims made about me that never happened. While I’m thankful on one level that the process worked, and the case was dismissed, at the same time, I was never given the opportunity to defend myself.”

Patricia took a few questions but did not provide details about the day in question.

“I was falsely accused of something that I did not do,” he said.

Patricia's first NFL coaching job was as an assistant with the New England Patriots in 2004, and he remained with them through last season, when he was the defen-



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

**Lions head coach Matt Patricia addresses the media Thursday. Patricia dismissed the 1996 sexual assault allegation against him which surfaced in media reports.**

sive coordinator. He was hired by the Lions in February to replace Jim Caldwell.

Before joining the Patriots, Patricia worked as a graduate assistant in 1996 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, his alma mater. That was before he spent two years working as an aeronautical engineer. Patricia was an assistant coach at Amherst and a graduate assistant at Syracuse before moving on to the NFL.

“I’ve interviewed for a lot of jobs,” Patricia said. “Interviewing for jobs in engineering right after the situation happened, it was never an issue, it never came up as anything, because it was dismissed, and I was innocent, so it just has never been part of any process that I’ve been involved with.”

The Patriot did not respond to a message seeking comment.

## Djokovic tries to remain positive despite setback

By TALES AZZONI  
Associated Press

MADRID — Novak Djokovic is trying his best to stay optimistic despite a disappointing start to his season.

Former No. 1-ranked Djokovic has struggled since returning from a layoff for a right elbow injury and has yet to reach the quarterfinals in the six tournaments he has played this year. His latest defeat was against Kyle Edmund in the second round of the Madrid Open on Wednesday.

“Obviously I’m disappointed from losing this match, but I can be happy with the progress of the level of tennis,” Djokovic said. “There are positives to take out from this. But obviously disappointing to go out early in the tournament.”

Djokovic lost in the third round in Monte Carlo a few weeks ago, following second-round exits at both Miami and Indian Wells. The No. 12-ranked Djokovic also failed to advance past the 16 at the Australian Open, which was the last tournament he won three consecutive matches.

“It’s a process,” Djokovic said. “It’s something I have to accept, I have to embrace. In general I feel much better about everything that is happening on the court and around tennis in general ... than maybe two months ago.”

In a bid to get back on track, Djokovic has reunited with coach Marian Vajda and trainer Gebhard Gritsch after stints working with former players Andre Agassi and Radek Stepanek.

“If there is anybody that knows my game well, knows me as a person well, especially in the last decade, it’s these two guys,” Djokovic said following his first-round in Madrid. “I think it’s going to take a little bit of time for us to really get my game together the way we want to. Even though they know my game very well, it’s still a process.”

Djokovic has won 12 major titles but last year failed to reach a final at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since 2009. Until he withdrew from the 2017 U.S. Open, the Serbian star had played in 51 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments and reached the final 21 times.



PAUL WHITE/AP

**Novak Djokovic reacts during his match against Kyle Edmund at the Madrid Open on Wednesday.**

Despite a 6-6 win-loss match record since his return from the elbow injury, Djokovic tried to put his slump into perspective.

“I’ve played this sport so many years and had a bunch of success. I try to always remind myself and be grateful for that,” he said. “Nobody is forcing me to play this sport. I want to do it. That’s where I draw my strength. As long as I keep going, as long as I love the sport, I’ll keep going.”

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal was confident Djokovic would regain his best form.

“I think he’s going step-by-step to be able to recover and be at the category he deserves. I don’t have any doubt that he’s going to be back up at the highest level,” said Nadal, who himself has returned from lengthy injury layoffs to add to lift his career tally to 16 major titles. “What Novak did on this sport is amazing. He will continue doing a lot of great things in the future. I don’t have any doubt of that.”

The 30-year-old Djokovic admitted he may have tried to return to action too soon after the injury. He was off for six months but the elbow started hurting again when he began training to get ready for the pre-season.

“I clenched my teeth and I kind of went through it, played Australia, but wasn’t really ready,” Djokovic said. “Then I had to do surgery. It takes time to overcome that surgery. It has obviously some consequences on your body that I never faced before, I never knew before, because I never had any surgery before.”

## Tessitore, Witten, McFarland, Salters on ESPN ‘MNF’ crew

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joe Tessitore calls his new gig at ESPN a “leg-accy job.”

Jason Witten notes he’s joining “another iconic franchise.”

Booger McFarland says it’s “the pinnacle of what we do.”

They are the three new voices who will work ESPN’s Monday night games this season.

Tessitore has been one of the network’s top announcers for 16 years on boxing, college football and basketball, including calling the College Football Playoff semifinals the past two years. It will be his first NFL assignment.

“I am very conscious of that lineage,” says Tessitore, who at 46 is the oldest member of what he calls “a young, vibrant crew.”

“When I got the call that I would be doing this, my first reaction was remembering when I was a kid watching Frank Gifford, Dandy Don (Meredit) and Howard Cosell. Everybody back then watched ‘Monday Night Football’ and ‘Wide World of Sports’ and Howard Cosell doing boxing. I did a Cosell imitation that had my grandfather, who didn’t speak English, laughing his tail off.”

Witten, one of the sport’s finest tight ends for 15 seasons and a likely Hall of Famer, retired from the Dallas Cowboys earlier this month to move into the booth.

Tessitore believes Witten will be a natural as he and McFarland replace Jon Gruden as analysts. Gruden, of course, is back coach-

ing in the league with Oakland.

“We had a lot of candidates, and at the end of the audition process all we were saying, ‘This is very obvious,’” Tessitore says of Witten.

“He has such an upside that this is a guy who could be the next generation’s face and voice of the NFL. He’s smart, respected, even beloved by coaches, and has a tremendously high football IQ. Jason has a little of all the traits and characteristics of the great ones. Most importantly, he is wholly authentic.”

Witten will be in the broadcast booth with Tessitore. McFarland, who won two Super Bowls as a player and has been an analyst for ESPN and SEC Network for four years, will be the first-field-level analyst for “Monday Night Football.”

“The idea is for the effervescent McFarland to give a viewpoint from near the trenches — exactly where he spent nine pro seasons as a defensive lineman.

McFarland’s wit and enthusiasm will be apparent from the outset of the broadcasts; ESPN’s first telecast will be Thursday night, Aug. 16 from the Jets at the Redskins in the preseason.

“I am going to use a strange word to describe Booger as an announcer: nimble,” Tessitore says. “He’s dynamic, a huge personality and presence. You can’t have a cookie-cutter type of analyst and Booger is far from that — he’s a guy who you can turn on the red light for the broadcast and he’s ready to go.”

## NBA PLAYOFFS

## Davis: Pelicans' season good, not successful

All-Star forward keeps focus on winning title

By BRETT MARTEL  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis wasn't willing to call the New Orleans Pelicans' season a success.

Not that Davis dismissed the determination, grit and growing chemistry the Pelicans showed in the way they adjusted to a season-ending injury to fellow All-Star DeMarcus Cousins.

New Orleans exceeded expectations by getting to the postseason and sweeping third-seeded Portland. Then came a second-round matchup with defending champion Golden State, and the Pelicans were reminded why bringing back a player of Cousins' caliber could be crucial to going farther next season. The Warriors needed only five games to end New Orleans' season.

"Any time you don't win a championship, I don't see how it could be successful," Davis said. "We can take a lot of positive things from the season. Of course, one of our main guys went out and everybody doubted us. Everybody counted us out and we were able to keep fighting, keep pushing as a unit and able to come this far."

This offseason could go a long way in determining if they go any farther.

Not only is Cousins a free agent, but so is assists maestro Rajon Rondo. Further complicating



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

The Pelicans' Anthony Davis, right, drives against the Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry during New Orleans' 113-104 Game 5 loss in their second-round playoff series on Tuesday in Oakland, Calif.

matters is that Cousins' injury — a torn Achilles — has been a historically difficult one from which to come back. So the Pelicans' faith could be tested if Cousins declines to take less than the maximum he can get under the NBA's current collective bargaining agreement.

Also, Rondo and Cousins are friends. Bringing back one could raise the prospects of keeping the other.

The Pelicans won their final

five regular season games to finish as the sixth seed in the highly competitive Western Conference, and head coach Alvin Gentry was informed the team was picking up his option for next season.

While Rondo couldn't promise he'll be back, he made it clear his affection for many on the roster grew considerably this season.

"Can't say enough about this group — a group of men that came together and found a way to sac-

rifice for one another and try to come with a common goal," Rondo said. "I love our chemistry."

If Cousins and Rondo both return, and team chemistry continues growing, the Pelicans could blossom into a team with the requisite combination of size and skill to punish teams like the Warriors which thrive on "small ball."

"We feel like we're headed in the right direction as a franchise," Gentry said.

## By the numbers

# 28.1

Points per game this season from Pelicans' All-Star forward and leading scorer Anthony Davis. He also averaged 11.1 assists and 2.6 blocks.

# 12.9

Average rebounds per game by Pelicans' free agent center DeMarcus Cousins this season. Cousins also averaged 25.2 points in 48 games before injury.

# 12.2

Assists averaged by Pelicans' free agent point guard Rajon Rondo in the playoffs this season, a team high, along with 10.3 points and 7.6 rebounds.

SOURCE: Basketball-reference.com

## Finally: Warriors, Rockets meet in conference finals for second time in four years

## FROM BACK PAGE

This Rockets team was assembled — the key being the trade for Paul last summer — with hopes of unseating the reigning champion Warriors from their perch atop the NBA. So far, so good. Houston set a franchise record with 65 wins in the regular season, went 2-1 against the Warriors in games that were hyped at the time though seem meaningless now, and has the likely MVP in James Harden.

How this Houston season will be remembered hinges largely on the outcome of this series.

"Everybody at the beginning of the year thinks they've got a chance to be here," Houston's P.J. Tucker said. "Everybody talks about winning. Everybody talks about fighting for a championship. ... We really believed it. We're really fighting to get there. This is not a game. Everybody takes their job serious."

He's right on all counts, particularly on the talking. The talking will most definitely continue over the next few days. With five off days between the Warriors' and Rockets' respective second-round clinchers on Tuesday and Game 1 of their series, a lot of people will be saying a lot of something.

"I think it's going to be a great



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

The Rockets' Chris Paul, left, and James Harden celebrate Tuesday's Game 5 win over the Utah Jazz in Houston. The Rockets advanced to the Western Conference finals, setting up a much-anticipated matchup with the defending champion Golden State Warriors.

series," said New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry, whose Pelicans fell in five games to the Warriors in the West semifinals. "I think it will be very entertaining. I think the people will have a great time watching that series, because you have great players out there. ... I'm looking forward to it."

He's hardly alone.

For as great as LeBron James has been, again, the West match-

up is going to overshadow the East finals between Cleveland and Boston or Philadelphia. That's no disrespect to the East; that's just reality given the seasons that the Warriors and Rockets have had, and the collision course that seemed so inevitable for either to avoid.

"The whole world's been waiting for this matchup," Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal said in

**"The whole world's been waiting for this matchup."**

Shaquille O'Neal

Four-time NBA champion and Hall of Fame center

his role as an analyst Tuesday night on TNT.

The three Warriors-Rockets games were about as anticipated as any in the regular season: Golden State lost two of the three, and the final combined score of those matchups was Warriors 353, Rockets 352.

"That was so long ago," Warriors forward Kevin Durant said. "I think both teams are different and playing better. So you know, I try not to look at those games but we kind of know, they know what we do and they know what we do."

It's the second time in four years that Houston and Golden State have met in the West finals; the Warriors ousted the Rockets in five games in 2015 on their way to the NBA title. Golden State was the No. 1 seed that year, Houston was No. 2. The seeds are flipped this time, after Houston finished the regular season with the league's best record.

This is the first time since 2014 — a span of 15 series — where

Golden State will have to play Game 1 on the road.

"Every series you play, it gets harder and harder and harder," said Warriors guard Stephen Curry, who is seeking a fourth consecutive trip to the NBA Finals and third ring in four years. "So following that trend for sure."

The verbal jousts between the Warriors and Rockets go back to the preseason, with Green questioning Houston's commitment to defense. After Houston beat Golden State 122-121 on the opening night of the season, that prompted Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni to turn that phrase back around on Green.

It kicked up in January, when the teams split two games. In February, Green told Sports Illustrated that he knew the Rockets were focused on knocking the Warriors off.

"Noted. Great. We'll see y'all soon," Green said then.

Soon, now, has a definitive date. Soon is Monday.



## NBA PLAYOFFS

# Something to shout about

League's best will be on display in conference finals

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

The franchise with the most titles. The best player of this generation. The reigning champions. The probable MVP.

The NBA has its Final Four. It certainly does not disappoint.

Boston's win over Philadelphia on Wednesday night brought down the curtain on the postseason's second round — one that wasn't exactly loaded with drama, since it was the first time since 2002 that none of the NBA's four conference semifinal series went past five games. Cleveland swept Toronto, while Houston, Golden State and the Celtics all prevailed by 4-1 counts.

Everyone gets to catch their collective breaths for a few days, with the league going dark until the weekend. Cleveland and Boston don't tip off the Eastern Conference finals until Sunday, and the Warriors and Rockets start their West title series on Monday. And yes, the Cavaliers and Warriors are four wins away from a fourth consecutive meeting in the NBA Finals.

A few things to know going into the conference finals:

## LeBron, of course

Any list of anything this time of year basically has to start with LeBron James, still generally considered the best player on the planet even at 33 years old and in his 15th NBA season.

Cleveland's star is trying to reach the NBA Finals for the eighth straight season — something only four



James

players have done, and they were all Boston Celtics.

Bill Russell went to 10 straight title series, Sam Jones and Tom Heinsohn went to nine, and Frank Ramsey went to eight. James is already the NBA's all-time playoff leader in points, steals and minutes played. He's fifth in playoff wins with 152, behind only Derek Fisher (161), Tim Duncan (157), Robert Horry (155) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (154).

## MVP watch

Houston's James Harden seems like the probable winner of the NBA's MVP award this season, with the only other realistic candidate for top honors probably LeBron James.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

**The Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green reacts after feeding an alley-oop pass to Kevin Durant for a dunk during Game 1 of their second-round playoff series against New Orleans in Oakland, Calif. Green averaged a triple-double in the Warriors' 4-1 series win over the Pelicans.**

They won't know who won until June 25 — after the season.

Regardless, they could wind up adding to a recent trend.

The league MVP has played in the NBA Finals in four of the last six seasons — James and the Miami Heat won titles in 2012 and 2013, Stephen Curry and the Warriors won in 2015 and lost to Cleveland in 2016.

## Matter of time

Ray Allen is still the league's all-time leader in playoff three-pointers made, with 385.

LeBron James and Stephen Curry are coming his way.

James is No. 2 on the all-time list with 346 playoff three-pointers. Curry is No. 3 with 329 — in only 79 playoff games. Allen played in 171, and James has played in 228.

## Schedule makers nail it

Here's how the NBA season began, back on Oct. 17: Boston at Cleveland, and Houston at Golden State.

Almost seven months later, the conference finals begin with Cleveland at Boston, Golden State at Houston.

## Win Game 1

Winning Game 1 of any NBA playoff series is important; under this format that the league has been using since 1984, teams that take 1-0 series leads ultimately win those matchups about 80 percent of the time.

That's even more pronounced in this round.

Of the 68 teams that have taken 1-0 series leads in the conference finals, 57 have gone on to make

the NBA Finals. But four times in the last seven years, a team has dropped Game 1 in this round and made The Finals anyway.

## More days off?

The NBA Finals start May 31. There could be a lot of days without basketball before then.

If both series end in sweeps — unlikely, of course, but possible — the Boston-Cleveland winner would have 10 days off before The Finals and the Houston-Golden State winner would have nine.

Starting Thursday, there will be no games five times in a nine-day span. There's no games until Sunday, and there's no games in either series on May 17 and 18. Those needing a basketball fix on those last two days, fret not — there will be NBA Combine activities going on in Chicago.

## By the numbers

# 10

Golden State is trying to reach the NBA Finals for the 10th time, a mark that two other franchises have reached. The Los Angeles Lakers have made The Finals on 31 occasions (winning 16 titles), and the Celtics have gone 21 times (winning a league-high 17).

# 8

This is the eighth time Cleveland and Boston have met in the postseason. Boston has won four of the previous seven meetings, but Cleveland has won the past two — including the East finals last season.

# 3

This is only the third Golden State-Houston playoff meeting, and all have come in the past four seasons. The Warriors are 2-0 in the series, winning both times in five games — the '15 West finals and a first-round matchup in '16.

SOURCE: Associated Press

## Pool update

The NBA's playoff pool for this season is \$20 million, and here's a look at how much the four remaining teams have made so far in this postseason — along with a look at what they could get.

**Rockets:** \$2,322,122. Would finish with \$4,669,069 if they lose the NBA Finals, \$5,864,018 if they win the title.

**Celtics and Warriors:** \$1,646,226 each so far. They'd get \$3,993,173 if they reach The Finals and lose, \$5,188,122 if they win the championship.

**Cavaliers:** \$1,478,543. Would finish with \$3,825,490 if they lose the NBA Finals, \$5,020,439 if they win the title.

Teams use the playoff pool largely for bonuses for players and staff after the season. The 12 playoff teams that have already been eliminated will be getting checks adding up to about \$7 million from the league.

## NBA PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

## Conference semifinals

## Eastern Conference

**Cleveland 4, Toronto 0**  
 Cleveland 113, Toronto 112, OT  
 Cleveland 128, Toronto 110  
 Cleveland 105, Toronto 103  
 Cleveland 128, Toronto 93

## Boston 4, Philadelphia 1

Boston 117, Philadelphia 101  
 Boston 108, Philadelphia 103  
 Boston 101, Philadelphia 98 (OT)  
 Philadelphia 103, Boston 92  
**Wednesday** Boston 108, Philadelphia 103

## Western Conference

## Houston 4, Utah 1

Houston 110, Utah 96  
 Utah 116, Houston 108  
 Houston 113, Utah 92  
 Houston 108, Utah 87  
 Houston 112, Utah 102  
**Golden State 4, New Orleans 1**  
 Golden State 123, New Orleans 101  
 Golden State 121, New Orleans 116  
 New Orleans 116, Golden State 121  
 Golden State 118, New Orleans 92  
 Golden State 113, New Orleans 104

## Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

## Eastern Conference

**Cleveland vs. Boston**  
**Sunday, May 13:** at Boston  
**Tuesday, May 15:** at Boston  
**Saturday, May 19:** at Cleveland  
**Monday, May 21:** at Cleveland  
**x-Wednesday, May 23:** at Boston  
**x-Friday, May 25:** at Cleveland  
**x-Sunday, May 27:** at Boston

## Western Conference

**Houston vs. Golden State**  
**Monday, May 14:** at Houston  
**Wednesday, May 16:** at Houston  
**Sunday, May 20:** at Golden State  
**Tuesday, May 22:** at Golden State  
**x-Thursday, May 24:** at Houston  
**Saturday, May 26:** at Golden State  
**x-Monday, May 28:** at Houston

## Wednesday

## Celtics 114, 76ers 112

**PHILADELPHIA** — Redick 5-13 2-2 14, Saric 8-14 8-11 27, Embiid 9-18 9-11 27, Simmons 8-15 2-2 18, McConnell 4-7 0-0 9, Covington 2-5 0-0 5, Iyavosa 3-8 2-4 9, Beal 11-11 1-1 11, Anderson 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 40-82 24-31 112.

**BOSTON** — Tatum 8-15 9-11 25, Horford 7-15 1-5, Baynes 5-8 2-13, Rozier 4-15 6-6 17, Brown 10-13 1-4 24, Dyleve 0-0 0-0 0, Morris 1-10 4-4 6, Smart 3-8 0-13 14, Totals 38-85 31-41 114.

**Philadelphia** 24 28 30 30-112  
**Boston** 25 36 22 31-114

Three-point Goals—Philadelphia 8-21, Saric 3-3, Redick 2-3, McConnell 1-1, Iyavosa 1-3, Covington 1-3, Embiid 0-4, Boston 7-20 (Brown 3-4, Rozier 3-9, Baynes 1-2, Horford 0-1, Smart 0-2, Morris 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 48 (Embiid 12), Boston 39 (Gaynes 9). Assists—Philadelphia 26 (Simmons, McConnell 6), Boston 18 (Smart 6). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 31, Boston 24. Technicals—Embiid, A—18,624 (18,624).

## Calendar

**May 15** — NBA draft lottery.  
**May 16-20** — NBA draft combine.  
**May 31** — NBA Finals begin.  
**June 21** — NBA draft.  
**June 25** — NBA awards.  
**July 6-17** — NBA Summer League.  
**July 18** — Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2018 enshrinement ceremony.

## Postseason leaders

	Scoring	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	11	40	80	37	121	34.3
Davis, NOR	9	106	53	271	30.1	
Westbrook, OKC	6	64	33	176	29.3	
Durant, GOK	10	90	72	288	28.8	
Durant, GOK	10	102	57	280	28.0	
Beal, WAS	9	56	156	36	26	
Antipomo, MIL	7	69	38	180	25.7	
McCollum, POR	4	40	10	101	25.2	
Middleton, MIL	7	67	14	172	24.7	
George, OKC	6	49	31	148	24.7	
Antipomo, MIL	11	102	29	268	24.4	
Holiday, NOR	9	88	21	213	23.7	
Antipomo, MIL	37	41	118	23.2		
Beal, WAS	6	49	20	139	23.2	
Oladipo, IND	5	33	30	159	22.7	
DeRozan, TOR	10	87	43	227	22.7	
Paul, HOU	10	83	29	218	21.8	
Thompson, GOK	11	56	11	112	21.1	
Embiid, PHL	7	51	34	144	20.6	
Reid, PHL	5	55	34	168	18.7	

	Rebounds	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Davis, NOR	10	10	87	121	134	13.4
Towns, MIN	5	15	52	67	134	
Green, HOU	10	70	27	97	120	
Capela, HOU	10	41	81	122	122	
Westbrook, OKC	11	61	12	73	122	
Green, HOU	10	70	27	97	120	
Robert, UTA	11	43	75	118	10.7	
Thompson, TOR	10	56	15	105	10.5	
Love, CLE	11	25	86	111	10.1	
Antipomo, MIL	8	59	97	9.6		

	Assists	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, NOR	9	110	12.2	
Wall, WAS	6	69	11.5	
Green, HOU	10	70	9.0	
James, CLE	11	99	9.0	
Love, CLE	11	99	9.0	
Simmons, PHL	10	71	7.9	
Westbrook, OKC	6	65	7.5	
Thompson, TOR	10	74	7.4	
Paul, HOU	10	64	6.4	
Holiday, NOR	9	57	6.3	



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, left, dunks after a drive past Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid during the second half of Game 5 in Boston on Wednesday. Tatum scored 25 points as the Celtics defeated the 76ers 114-112.

## Celtics eliminate Sixers in Game 5

Boston completes improbable run back to conference finals

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
 Associated Press

**BOSTON** — The Boston Celtics have been mining possibility out of improbable odds throughout the 2017-2018 season.

A season filled with so much promise was jolted just five minutes into their season opener back in October when Gordon Hayward was lost for the year to a fractured ankle.

It looked to be derailed for sure when Marcus Smart suffered a torn ligament in his thumb in March, followed by Kyrie Irving being sidelined for the season a month later following a pair of knee surgeries.

Yet, after completing a 4-1 series win with their 114-112 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night, the Celtics are somehow back where no one — except maybe only them — believed they could be: headed to a second straight Eastern Conference final.

A rematch with the Cleveland Cavaliers and LeBron James awaits them, but for a Celtics team that has had to trudge uphill throughout the season, still playing at this point of the postseason feels like reason to celebrate. It looked to be derailed for sure when Marcus Smart suffered a torn ligament in his thumb in March, followed by Kyrie Irving being sidelined for the season a month later following a pair of knee surgeries.

"I always hoped we would get to a point where if things don't go our way, we're still extremely competitive because we have a kind of foundation in place," he said. "Things haven't always gone our way, but these guys are really talented, they're really tough, they fit Boston. And hopefully we keep playing well."

According to Elias Sports Bureau, the Celtics are the first team in NBA history to reach the conference finals in back-to-back seasons, while returning only four players from one



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

**Boston guard Terry Rozier scored 24 points in the Celtics' 114-112 series-clinching Game 5 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.**

year to the next (Smart, Jaylen Brown, Al Horford and Terry Rozier). That are advancing to the Eastern Conference finals in consecutive seasons for the first time since doing so five straight times from 1984 to 1988.

Brown was reinserted back into the starting lineup Wednesday for the first time since he injured his right hamstring last round in Boston's Game 7 win over Milwaukee.

He made the most of it, combining with rookie Jayson Tatum to score 49 points on 18 of 28 shooting.

Tatum, who had the go-ahead layup in the closing seconds Wednesday, has helped fortify that quartet over the latter half of the season.

## Did you know

Jayson Tatum's 23.6 points per game against the 76ers is the second-highest by a Boston rookie in a single playoff series, trailing only Tom Heinsohn, who averaged 20 points per game in 1957.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Like Brown, he has become one of the go-to players on a reconfigured Celtics roster that in many ways is now being led by his youthful core.

He made his NBA debut against the Cavs back in October. He said he feels like a completely different player as he prepares to face them again.

"It's like night and day," he said. "I remember the first time we played them I was so nervous. But it's been 90 games since then. We've been through a lot. I'm a lot more relaxed and calm, but ready to go out there and play."

**Playoff AI:** While the young players on Boston's rosters have been huge in Boston's success, Brown said the veteran leadership of Horford has been just as important in helping hold things together throughout the season.

Despite being surrounded by a group of 20-somethings, the 32-year-old "Playoff AI" has helped them all play well beyond their years.

But it hasn't just been talk. With 15 points and eight rebounds in Game 5, Horford has now scored in double figures in each of Boston's 12 games this postseason, including five double-doubles.

"We lean on our best, we lean on AI during those tough stretches, and he came up big for us," Brown said.

## SPORTS



## Special connection

Trotz, Ovechkin enjoying 1st trip to conference final » **NHL playoffs, Page 59**

## NBA PLAYOFFS



**Western Conference final**  
Houston Rockets  
vs. Golden State Warriors  
Game 1  
AFN-Sports  
3 a.m. Tuesday CET  
10 a.m. Tuesday JKT

# Finally.

Rockets-Warriors is  
the series everyone  
wanted for months

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

The buildup for this series began in February, with some pointed comments from Golden State's Draymond Green.

Or in October, when Houston won at Golden State on ring night.

Or in June, when the Rockets landed Chris Paul.

Whenever it started, however it started, it's clear that this is the series that the NBA-watching world wanted. Western Conference finals, Golden State versus Houston, Game 1 on Monday on the Rockets' home floor. Series winner to the NBA Finals, series loser will undoubtedly feel like they let a championship ring slip away.

"They got us. We got them," Green said. "Got to go out there and play. We'll see who better."

After more than 10 months of playing, posturing and some pontificating, it really is that simple.

**SEE FINALLY ON PAGE 61**

## Inside:

- Celtics eliminate 76ers in Game 5, advance to rematch with Cavaliers in Eastern Conference final, Page 63
- Although Pelicans exceeded expectations, Davis hesitant to call their season success, Page 61

**Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul shoots in front of Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson on Jan. 20 in Houston. Acquiring Paul was a key component of the Rockets' effort to unseat the Warriors as NBA champs.**

MICHAEL WYKE/AP

Brewers reliever Hader takes team-first approach

**MLB, Page 56**

